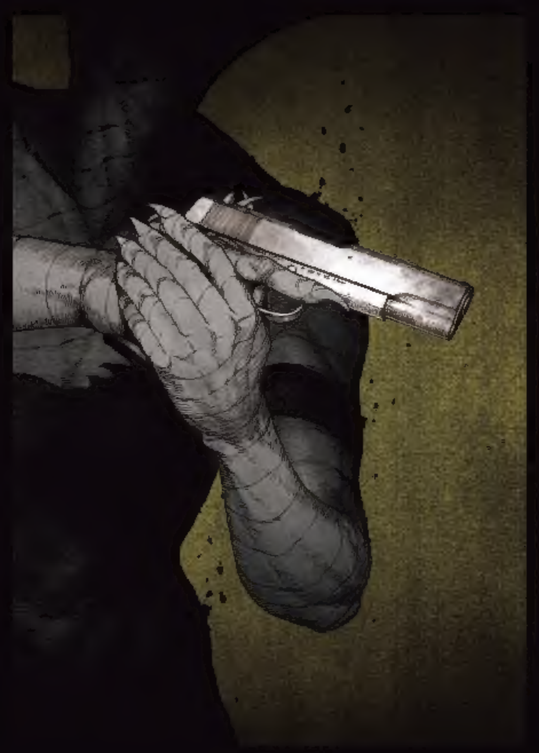
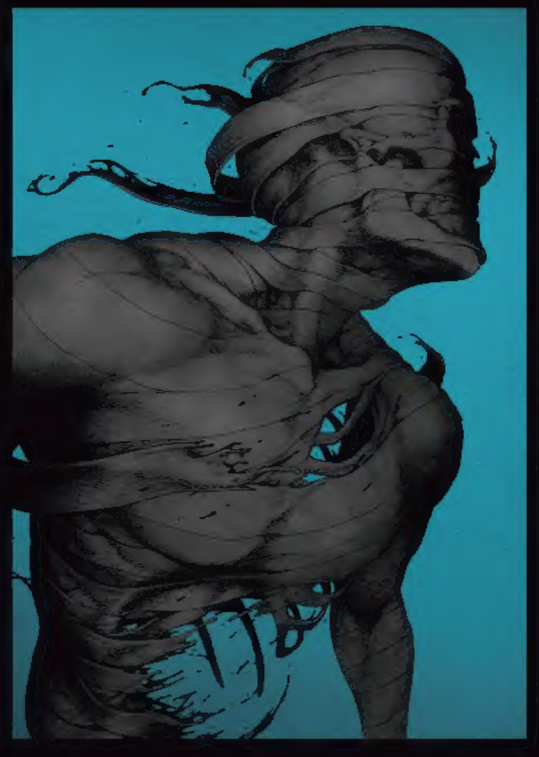
AJIN

DEMI-HUMAN

17

GAMON SAKURAI





ザザ……
ZSSHH

HHSSZ

HHSSZ

ZSSHH

ZSSHH

ZSSSHH

I'VE RESEARCHED THIS AREA A BUNCH.

IF WE GET IN THE WATER HERE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GO OUT WITHOUT THE CURRENT PUSHING US BACK. WE WON'T HAVE TO GO TOO FAR, EITHER.

I THINK.

CAMS

ARE YOU READY?

TOTALLY.

THAT SO.

STAY VERTI-CAL.

GO IN STRAIGHT, FEET FIR—

OKAY, THEN. BEFORE WE JUMP IN,

BLOCK YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE WITH ONE ARM AND HOLD IT STEADY WITH THE OTHER.

CAMS

THP

SPLOOSH

TUG

BUHH !

SPLAASH

HUH ?

WHAT THE FUCK!!

SPLASH

YOU'RE JUST A PLAIN OLD IDIOT

WHO DOESN'T LIKE THEM!!

SPLASH

YOU SAID YOU WERE AFRAID OF HEIGHTS ...

BUT NO!

SPLASH

WHA ?

I WAS EXPLAIN- ING THE RIGHT WAY TO DO IT!

WEREN'T WE JUMPING IN?

BUT IT CAN BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU MIGHT EXPECT.

A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK IT'S SAFE TO JUMP INTO WATER.

IT'S FINE IF WE DIE, ISN'T IT?

PLUS,

THAT'S ABOUT HOW HIGH THE CLIFF WAS, RIGHT?

EH.

IN GENERAL, THEY SAY YOU'RE SAFE UP TO HEIGHTS OF MAYBE TWENTY FEET AND—

FROM A HEIGHT OF OVER ABOUT SEVENTY FEET,

THE IMPACT IS NO DIFFERENT FROM HITTING SOLID GROUND.

IF WE DIE IMMEDI-ATELY.

THAT'D BE FINE.

THAT SHOULD TURN YOUR BONES AND YOUR ORGANS INTO MUSH, KILLING YOU INSTANTLY.

IT'S ALMOST UNHEARD OF TO SURVIVE A FALL OF OVER 250 FEET.

BUT.

THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO FOR A DEMI-HUMAN

IS PASSING OUT.

DO YOU KNOW WHY?

AFTER JUMPING IN FROM JUST A FEW FEET UP.

PLENTY OF PEOPLE DROWN EVEN THOUGH THEY CAN SWIM

BECAUSE THEY PASS OUT AFTER HITTING THE WATER.

YOUR HEART RATE DROPS WHEN YOUR FACE IS SUBMERGED IN COLD WATER, AND IF THAT REACTION IS STRONG ENOUGH, IT CAN CAUSE YOU TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS AS WELL.

THERE'S SOMETHING CALLED THE DIVING REFLEX, TOO.

HIT THE SURFACE THE WRONG WAY AND THE IMPACT CAN MAKE YOU BLACK OUT.

IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE FOR WATER TO GET IN YOUR AIRWAY AND CAUSE YOU TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS DUE TO A PARASYMPATHETIC REACTION.

IT HAPPENS A LOT IN POOLS. IT CAN EVEN RESULT IN QUADRIPLEGIA.

AND NEVER FORGET ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SPINAL INJURIES FROM HITTING YOUR HEAD ON THE BOTTOM.

OR IF WATER GETS INTO YOUR EAR CANALS, IT CAN THROW OFF YOUR SENSE OF BALANCE, CAUSING YOU TO FAINT.

AND IN ORDER TO MITIGATE THESE RISKS,

I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU TO NOT DO SOME KIND OF WEIRD POSE WHEN YOU JUMPED IN.

LIFE MUST BE TOUGH FOR YOU.

...

WE DEMI-HUMANS AREN'T SUPER-MEN OR MON-STERS.

WE'RE REGULAR PEOPLE WHO JUST DON'T DIE.

BUT THEY CAN HAPPEN.

IT'D BE HARD TO LIVE LIFE IF YOU WERE ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.

YES, THOSE EXAMPLES I JUST GAVE MIGHT BE RARE.

AND?

THE HUMAN PHYSICAL SYSTEM IS STILL SUSCEPTIBLE TO ALL THESE THINGS.

NO MATTER HOW HEALTHY BODY AND MIND ARE,

NO MATTER HOW LOW THE PROBABILITY,

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO ATTEMPT COULD ALL END IN RUIN,

THANKS TO EVEN THE TINIEST MISTAKE.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GETTING OURSELVES INTO HERE.

WE NEED TO CONSIDER EVEN THE SMALLEST DETAILS,

AND STAY CALM AND LEVEL-HEADED.

IF WE DON'T...

HEY.

YOU KEEP ON TALK-ING,

BUT WHAT IS IT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY ?

GIVE IT TO ME IN A WAY A HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OUT CAN UNDER-STAND.

ONE LINE!

...

I WANT TO WIN NO MATTER WHAT.

ZSSHH
ZSSHH

AJIN
DEMI-HUMAN

FINAL VOLUME

ΔΔ

ΔΔ

ΔΔ

ΔΔΔ

ΔΔΔΗ

THOOM

?!

CRUMBLE

ボ"ロ

CRUMBLE

ボ"ロ

CRUMBLE

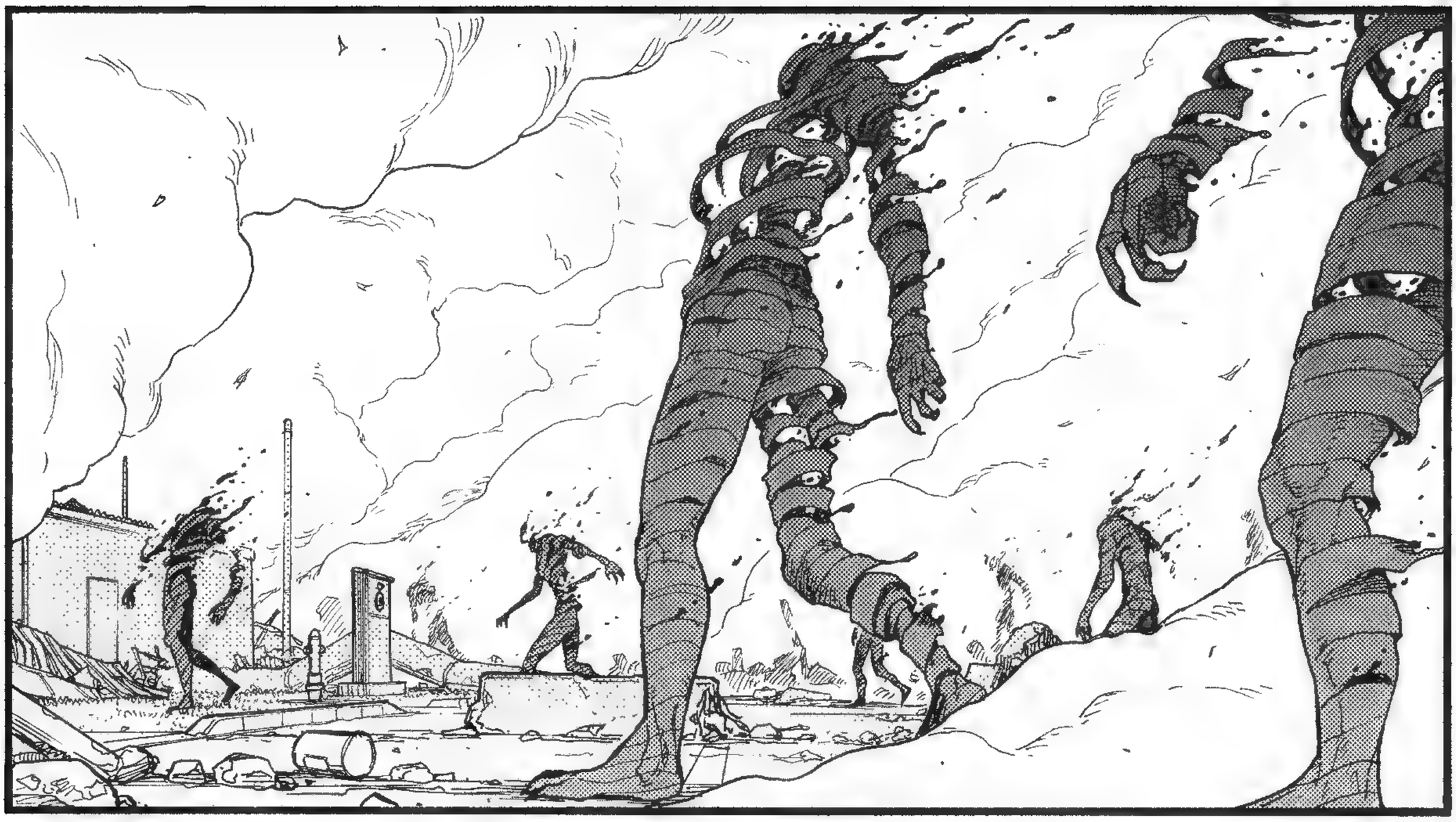
CRUMBLE

CRUMBLE

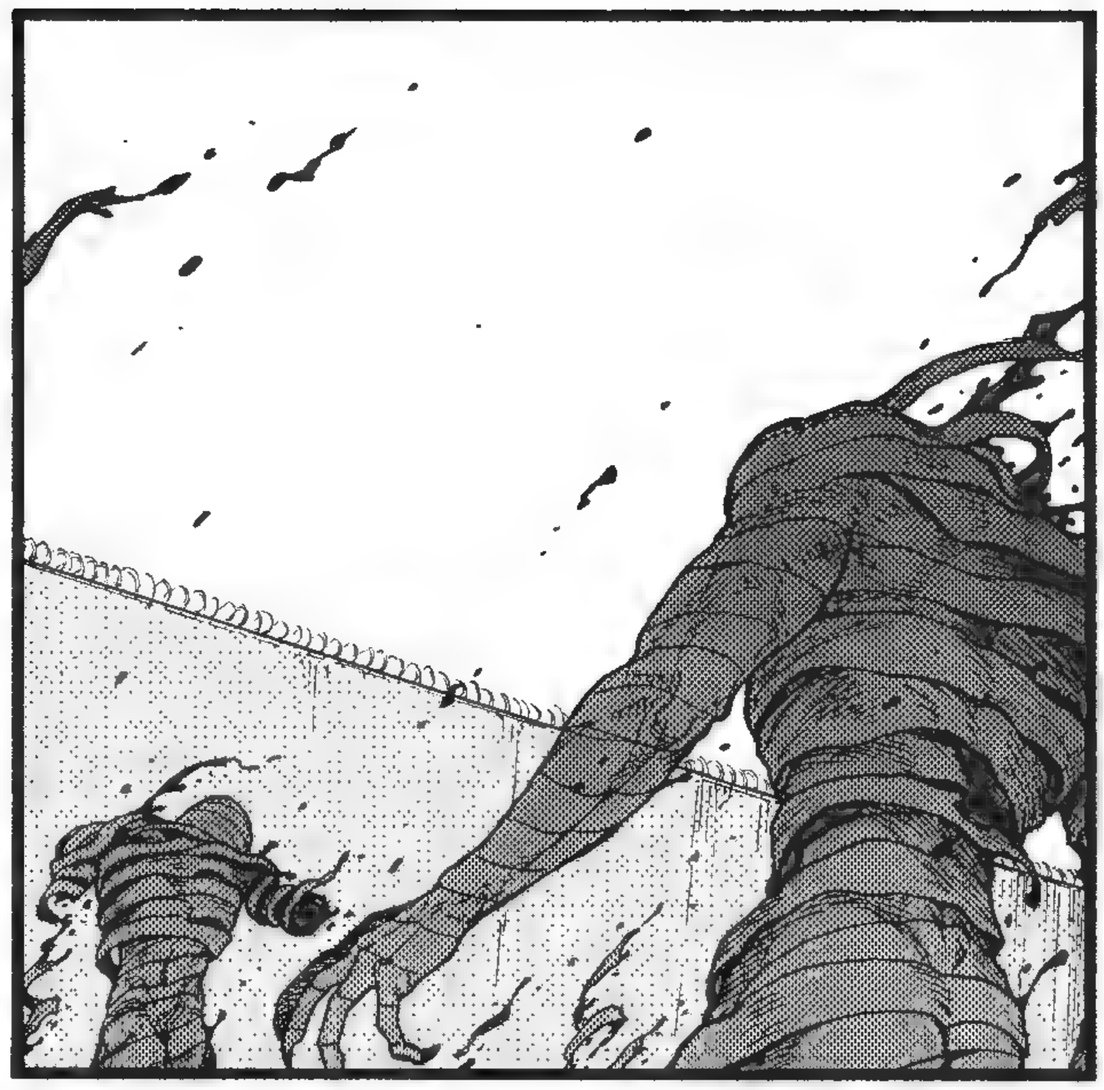
CRUMBLE

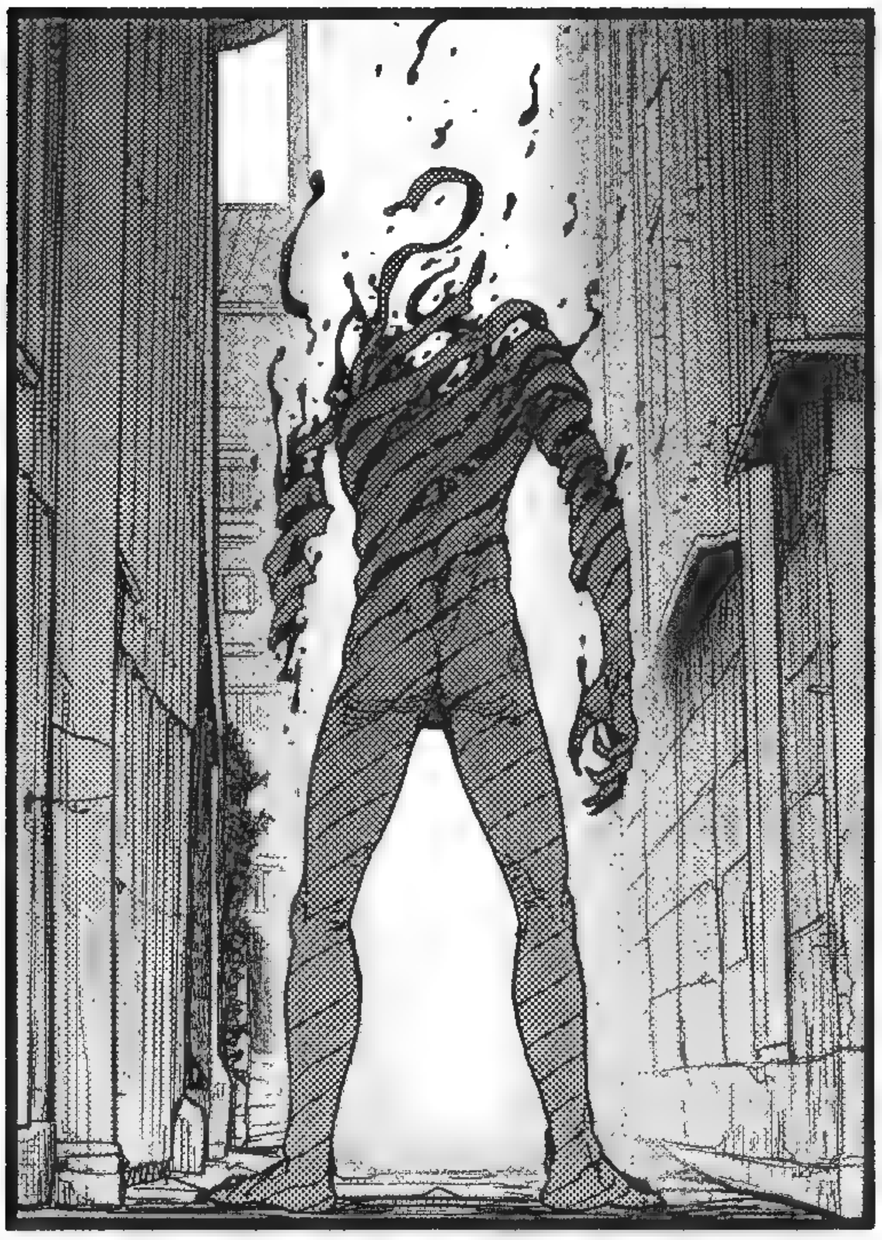
CRUMBLE

CRUMBLE

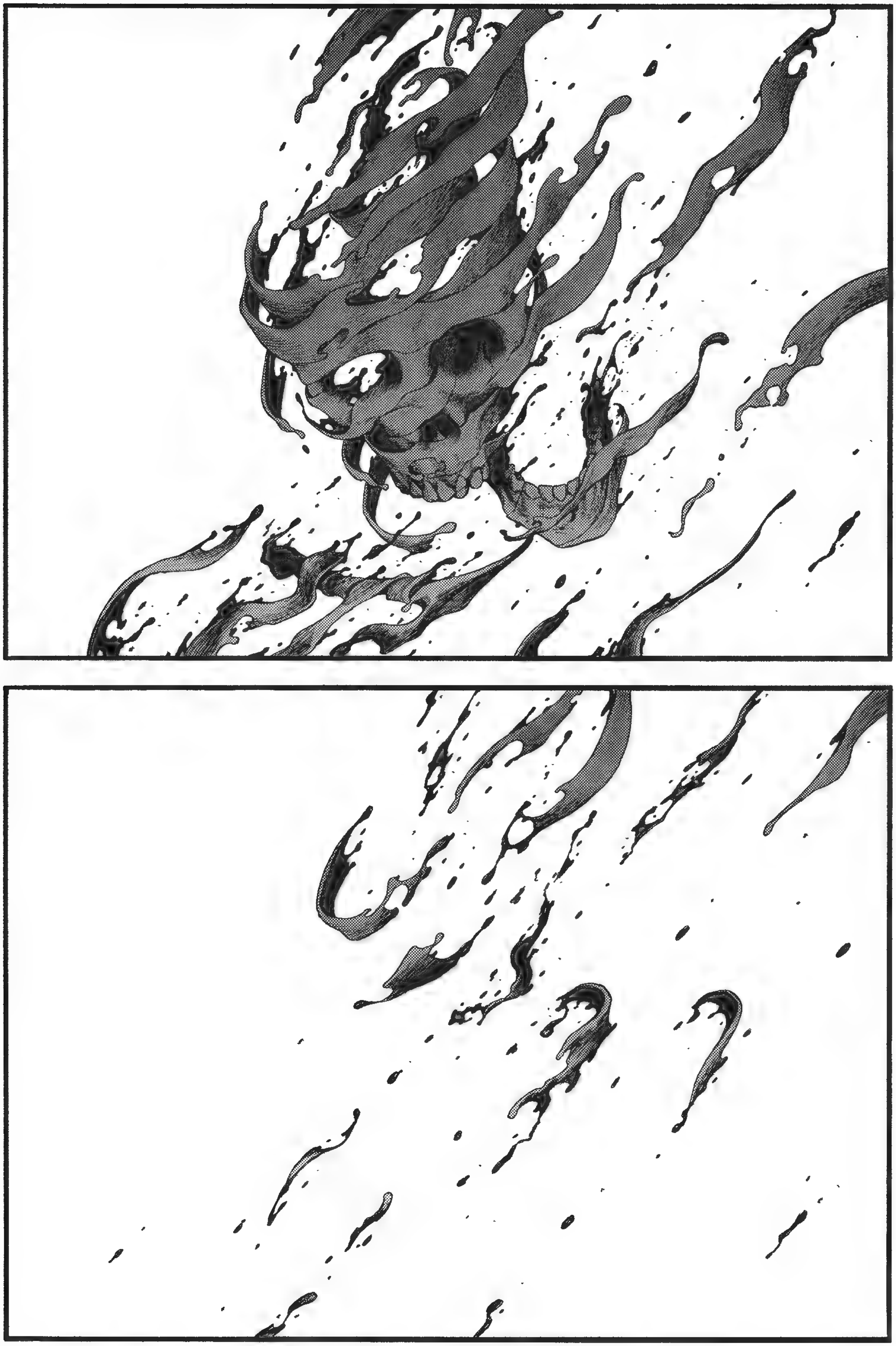


VIP

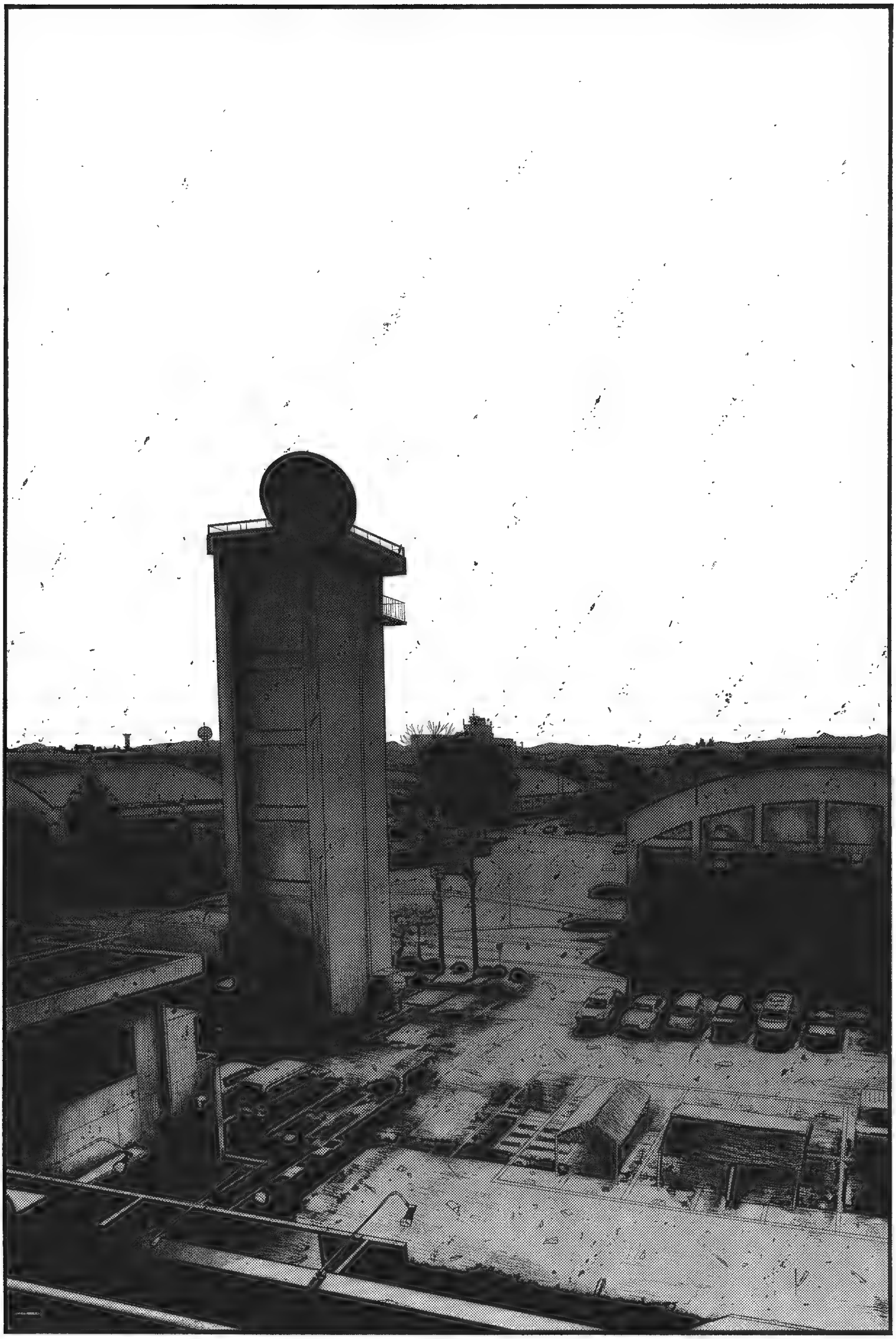


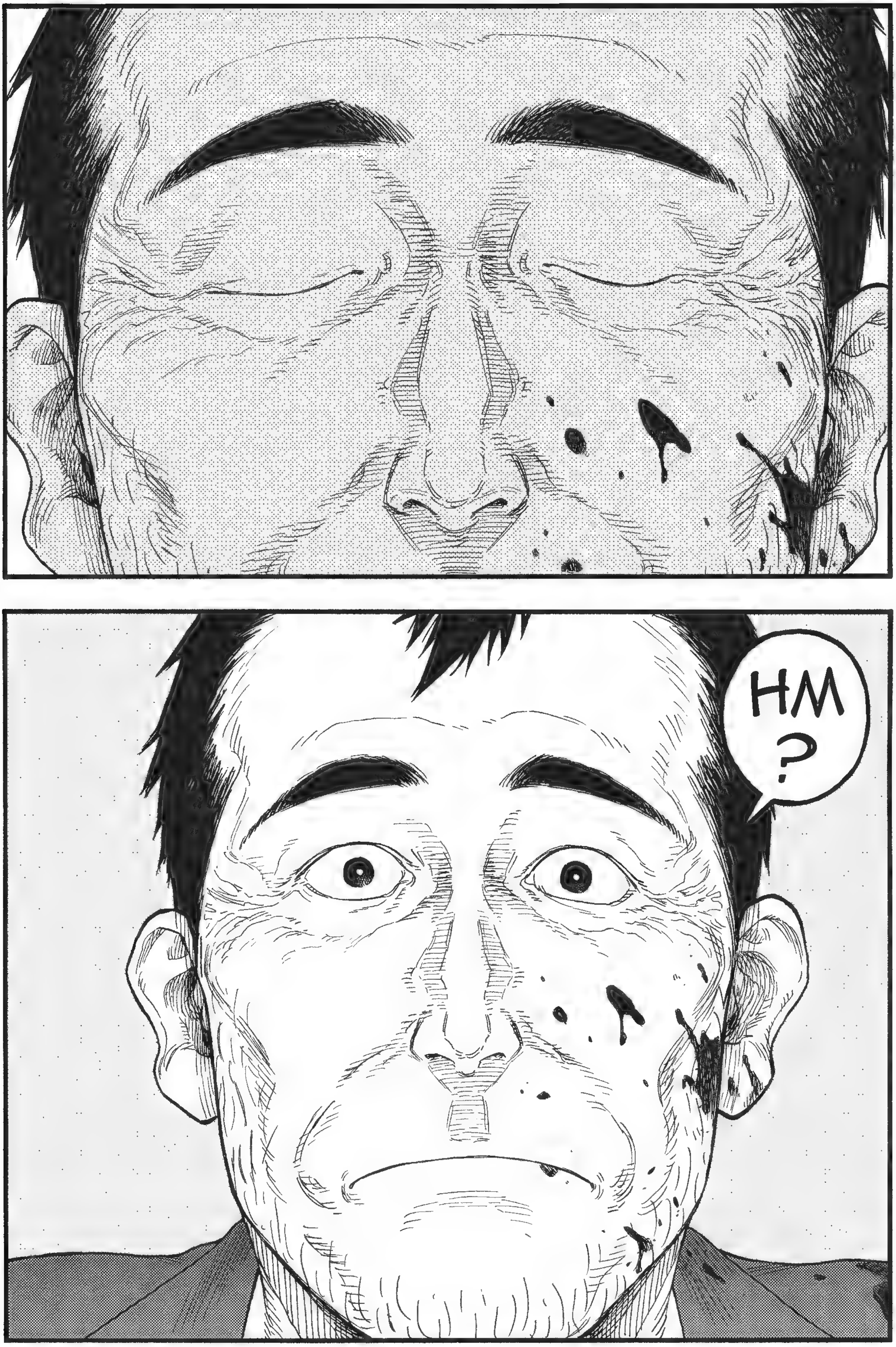


STRIKE



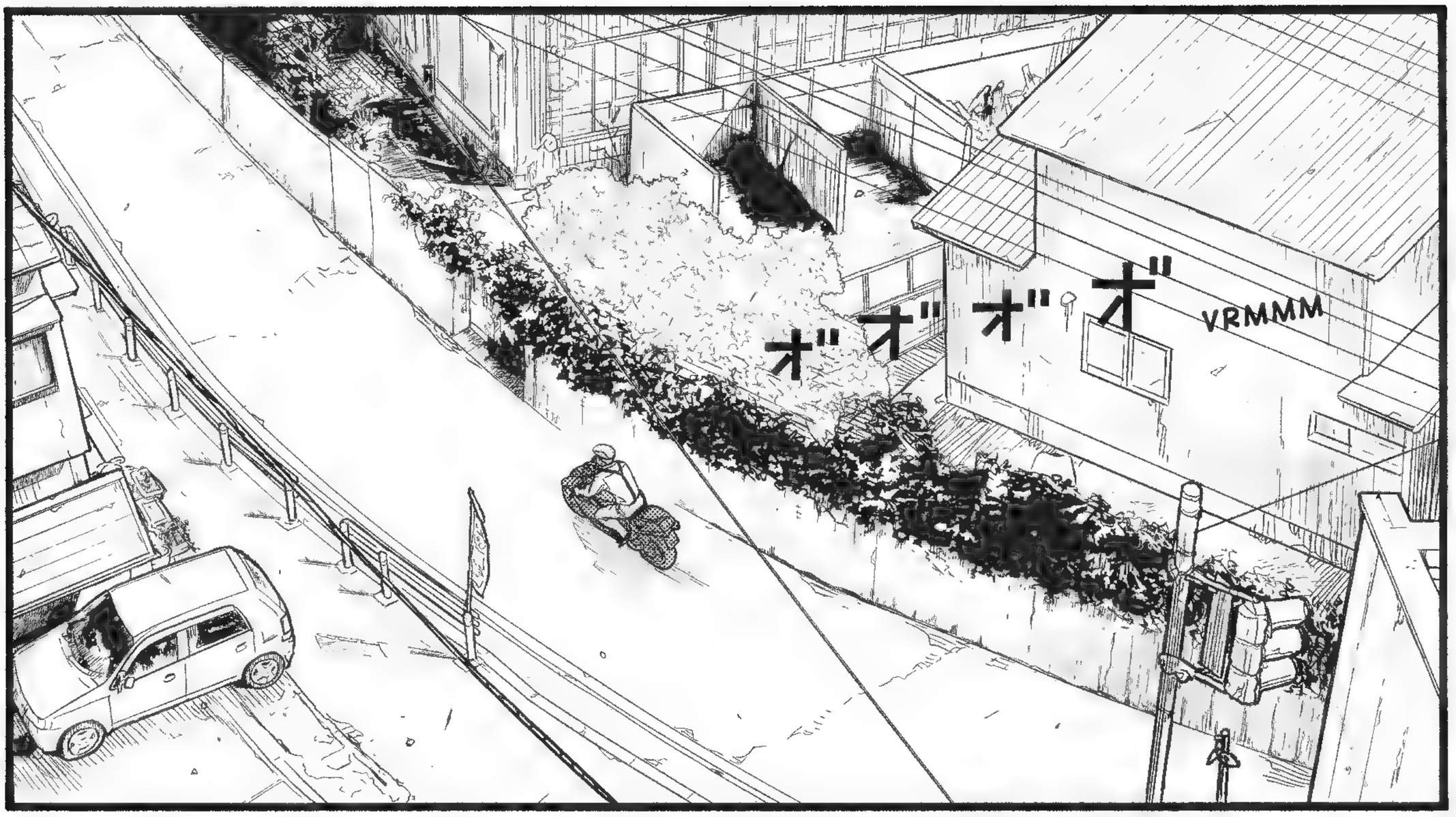
IT'S OVER.
STRIKE

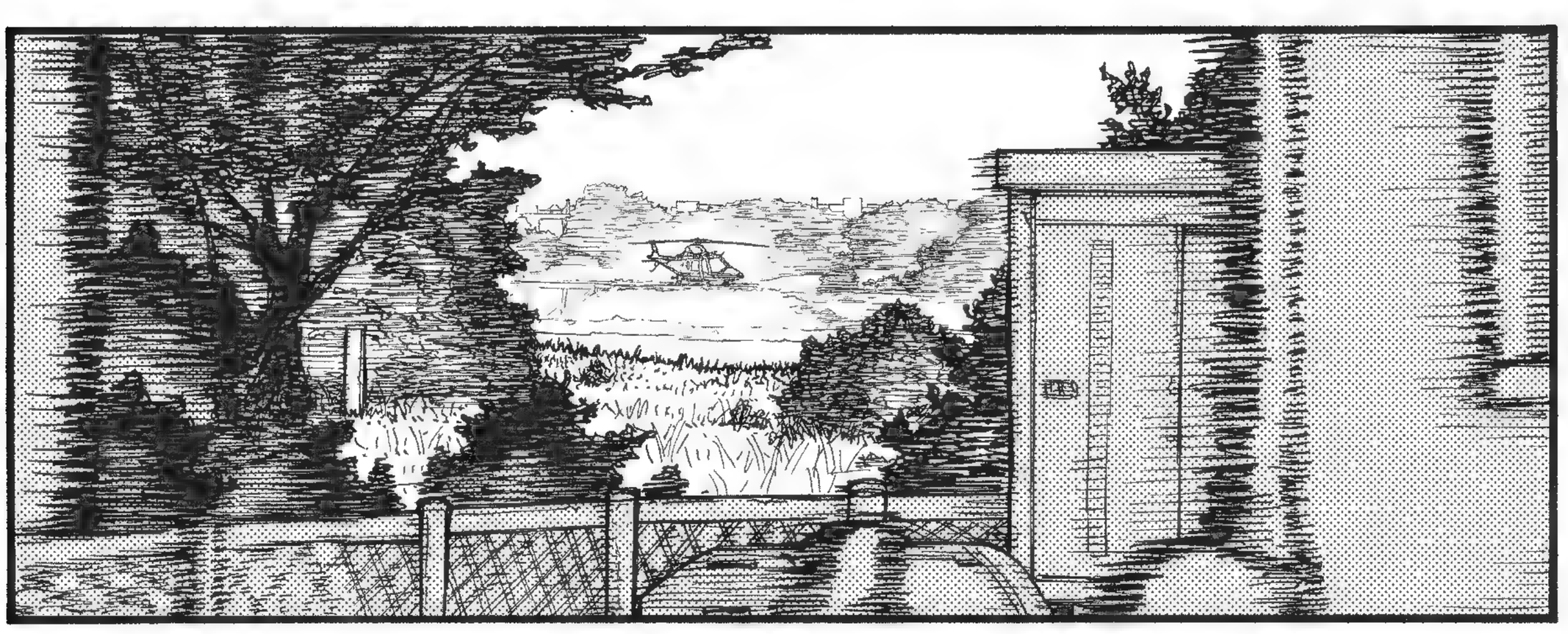



HM
?

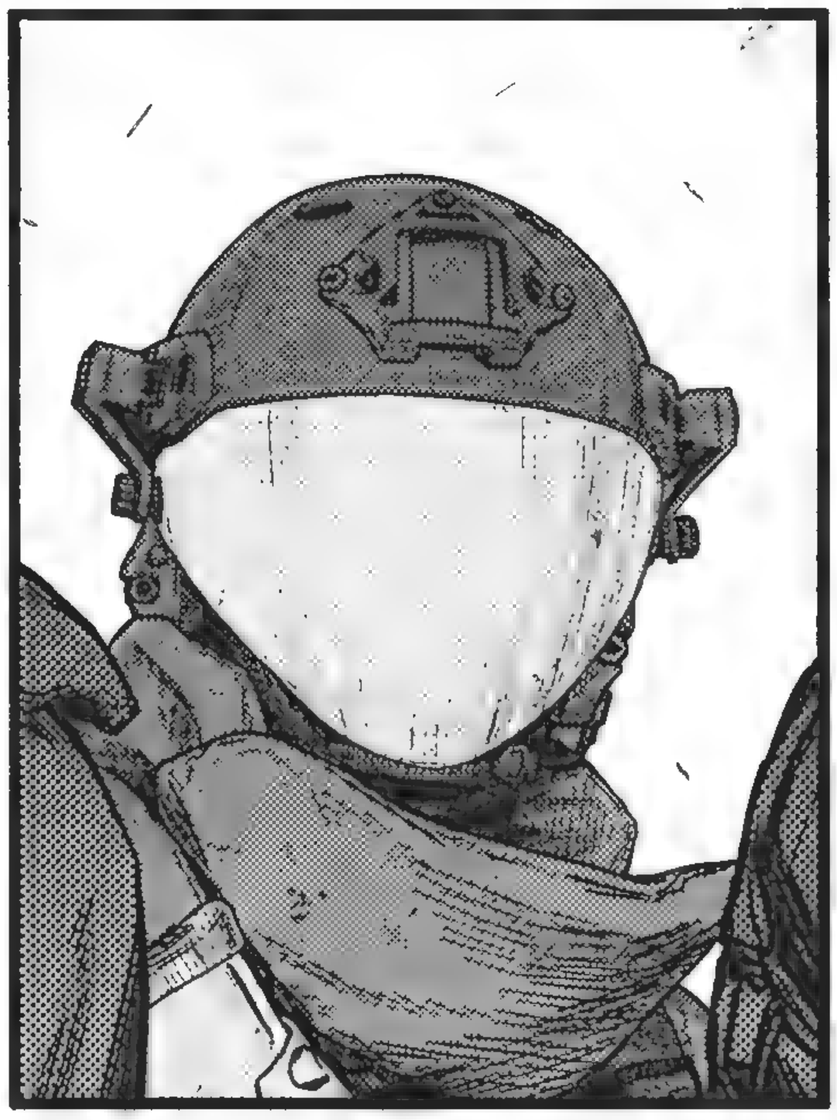
File:79 End

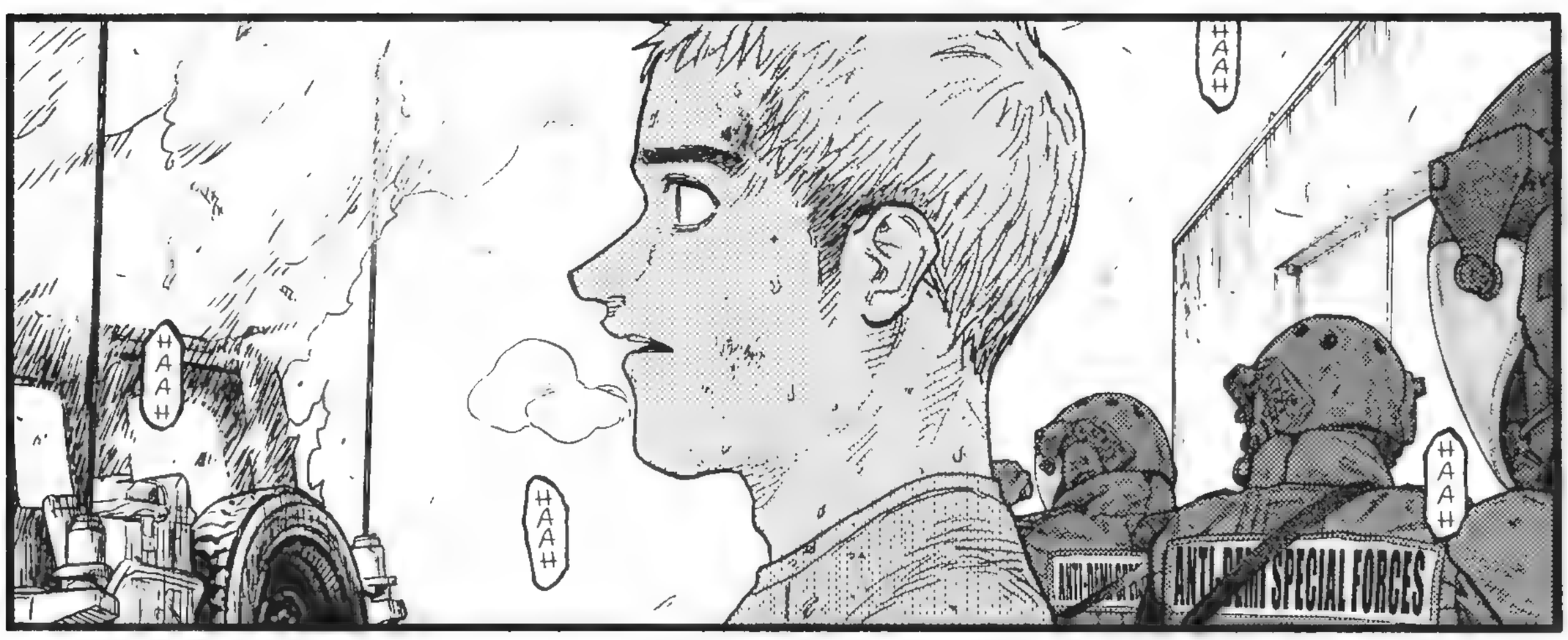
File: 80





自衛隊
AIR BASE




HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
ANTI-
SPECIAL FORCES

File 80: THE ONE

HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
WHERE...
AM I?
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HA

LET'S GET A READ ON OUR CURRENT SITUATION.

FIRST OFF,

YOU TWO HEAD UNDER-GROUND.

YOU TWO HEAD TO THE FUELING STATION WHERE THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED.

GATHER WHATEVER INFORMA-TION YOU CAN.

STRIKE BACK

Yahoo!

!

BBC News Japan

HEY.
LOOK AT
THIS.

Iruma, Saitama — Provided by a viewer

THIS IS A PHOTO-GRAPH OF THE HELI-COPTER

THAT TOOK OFF FROM IRUMA BASE.

THAT THE DEMI-HUMAN SATO WAS ON BOARD.

MULTIPLE EYEWIT-NESSES HAVE REPORTED

HAS ESCAPED THE BASE.

IT APPEARS THAT SATO

THE QUAL-ITY'S TOO LOW.

IT DOESN'T TELL US ANY-THING...

2

skype

c3 has joined the conference call

VZZT

MISS IZUMI!

MY PHONE BROKE AND I COULDN'T GET IN CONTACT.

SORRY.

YEAH, I SAW.

SATO LEFT THE BASE ON A HELI-COPTER...

BUT, I LOST HIM...

WHAT KIND OF HELI-COPTER ?

WITH "MITSU"-SOME-THING WRITTEN ON THE SIDE...

?

BLUE ...

AN AGUSTA A109E...

IT CAN EASILY MAKE IT OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

HIGH TOP SPEED, LONG RANGE.

SATO'S NO LONGER ANYWHERE NEAR HERE.

IN OTHER WORDS,

LIS-
TEN
UP.

NEW
ORDERS,
EVERY-
ONE.

DETAIN ALL
RESTRAINED
DEMI-
HUMANS.

DO NOT
LET
YOUR
GUARD
DOWN.

AND.

ONE
MORE
THING.

BEGIN PREPA-RATIONS FOR WITH-DRAWAL.

STRIKE BACK

WH-

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

THEY EVEN HAVE FIGHTER JETS HERE!

CAN'T WE GO AFTER HIM?!

LET'S GO FIND SATO!

ARE IN SECURE CUSTO-DY.

AND WE ALSO NEED TO MAKE SURE HIS ALLIES

IT'S NOT PRACTI-CAL.

IS TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN GIVEN THE SITUATION.

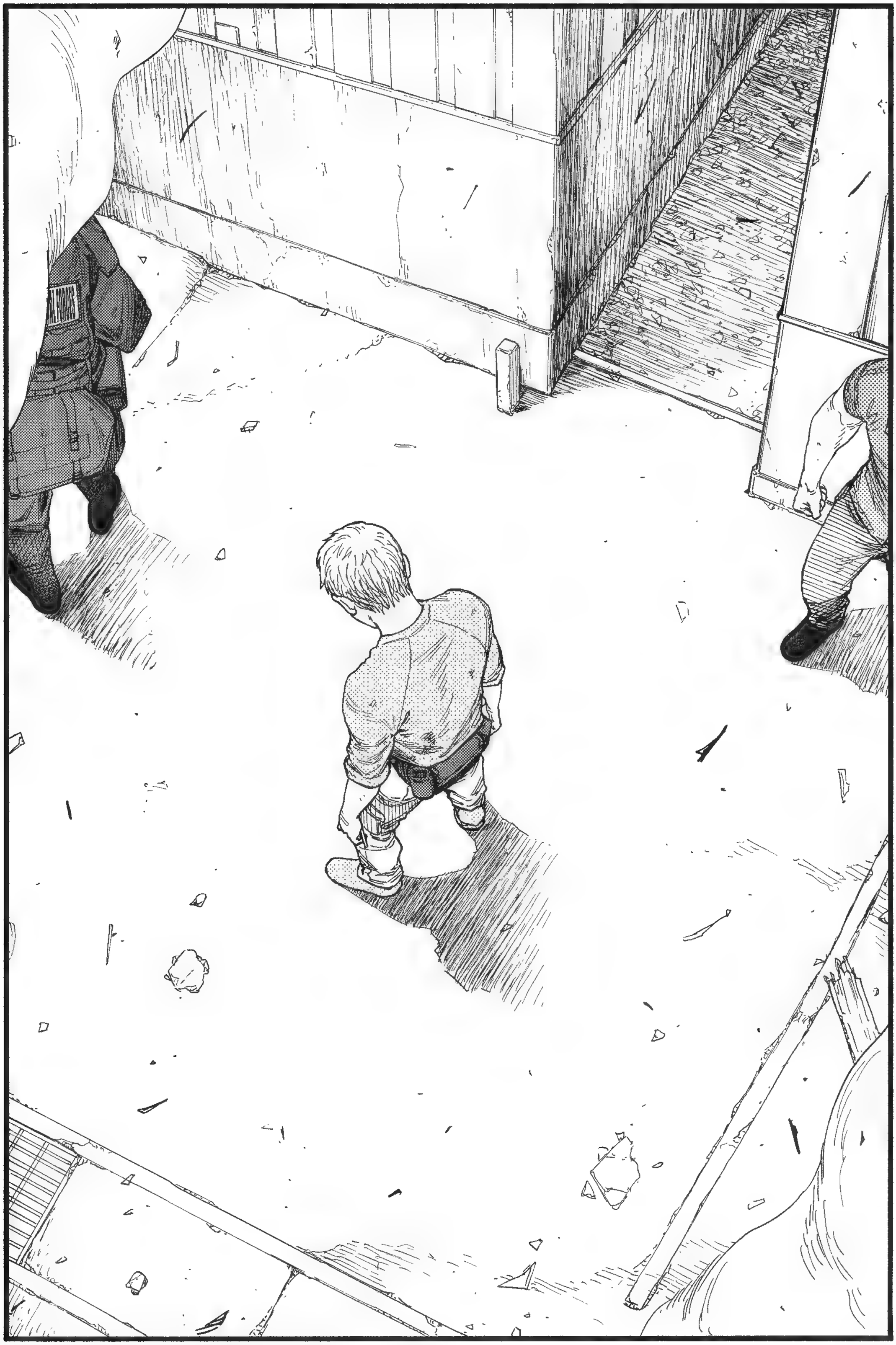
OUR ONLY OPTION HERE

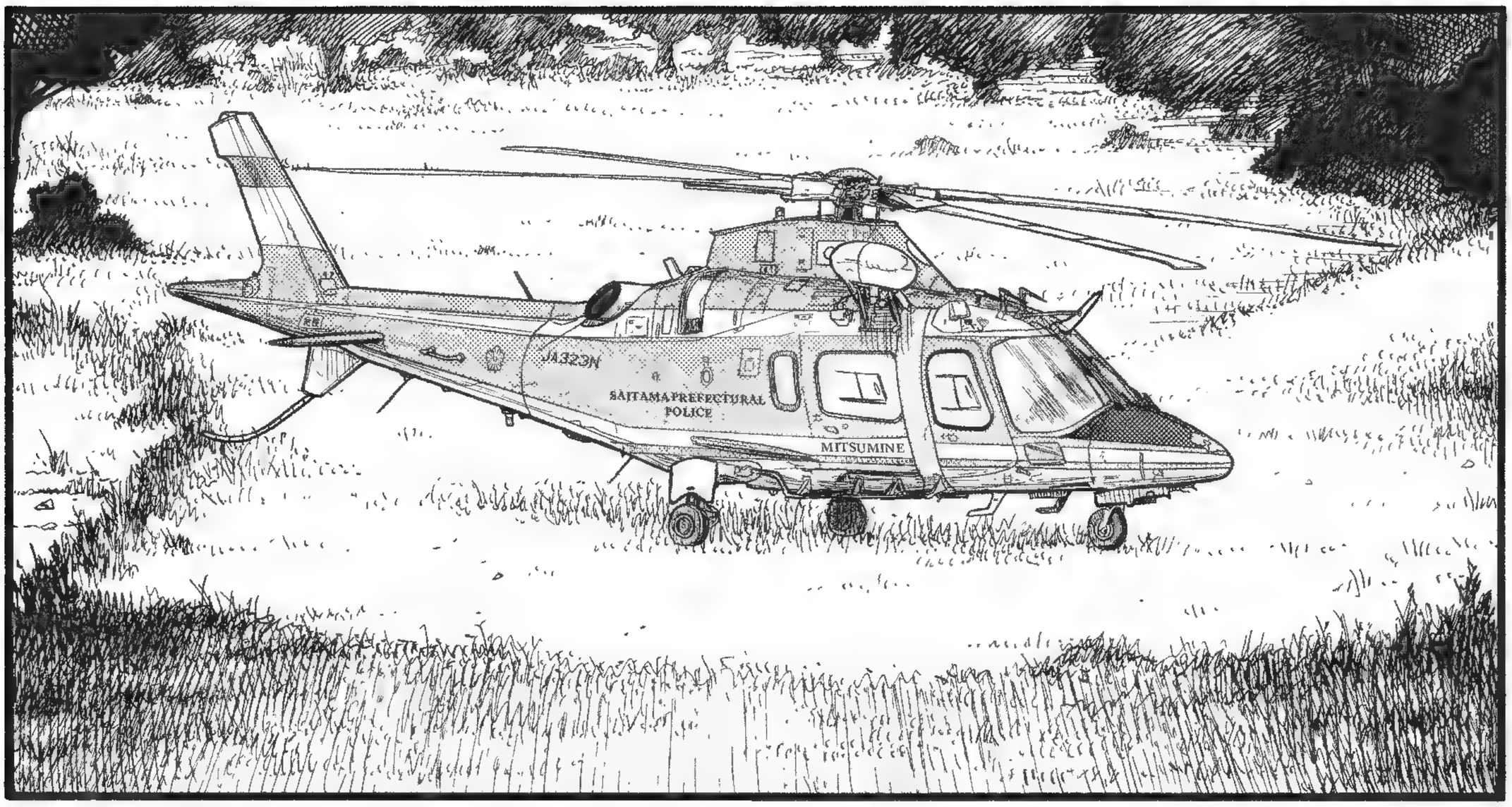
NO MATTER HOW UNSATIS-FYING THAT MAY BE.

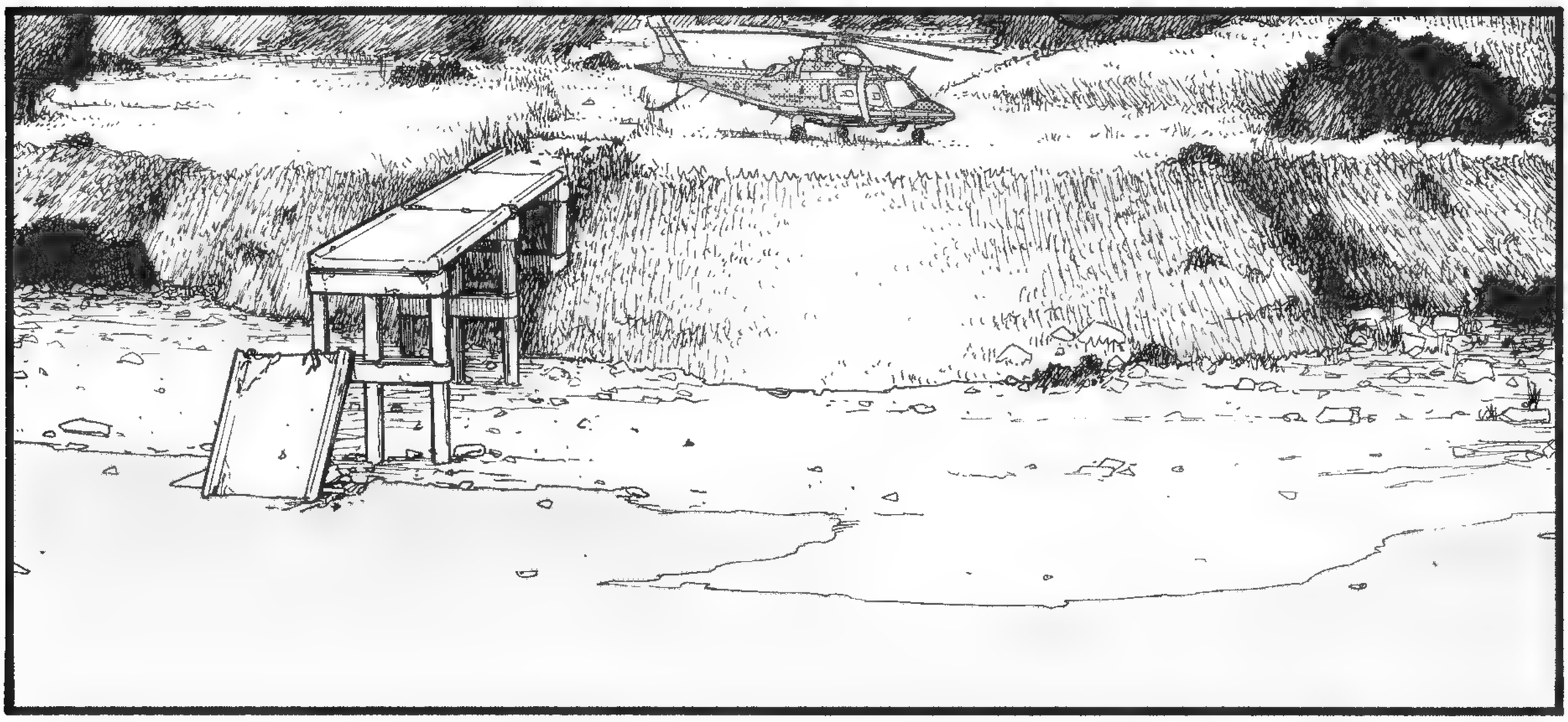
STRIKE

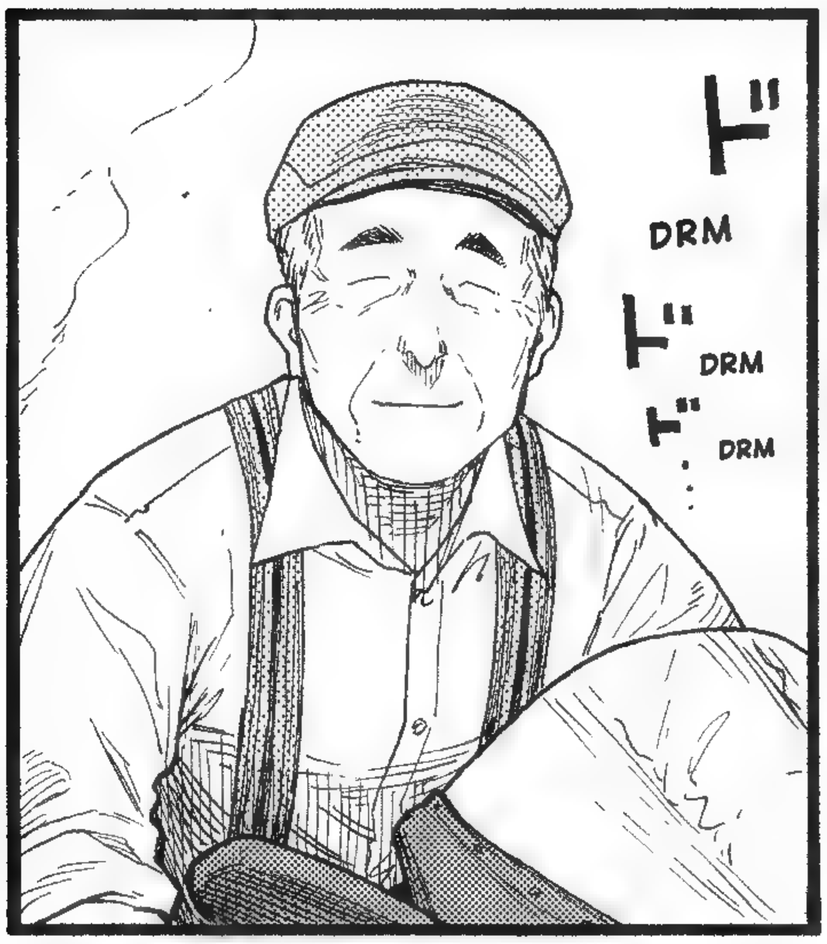
NA-KANO.

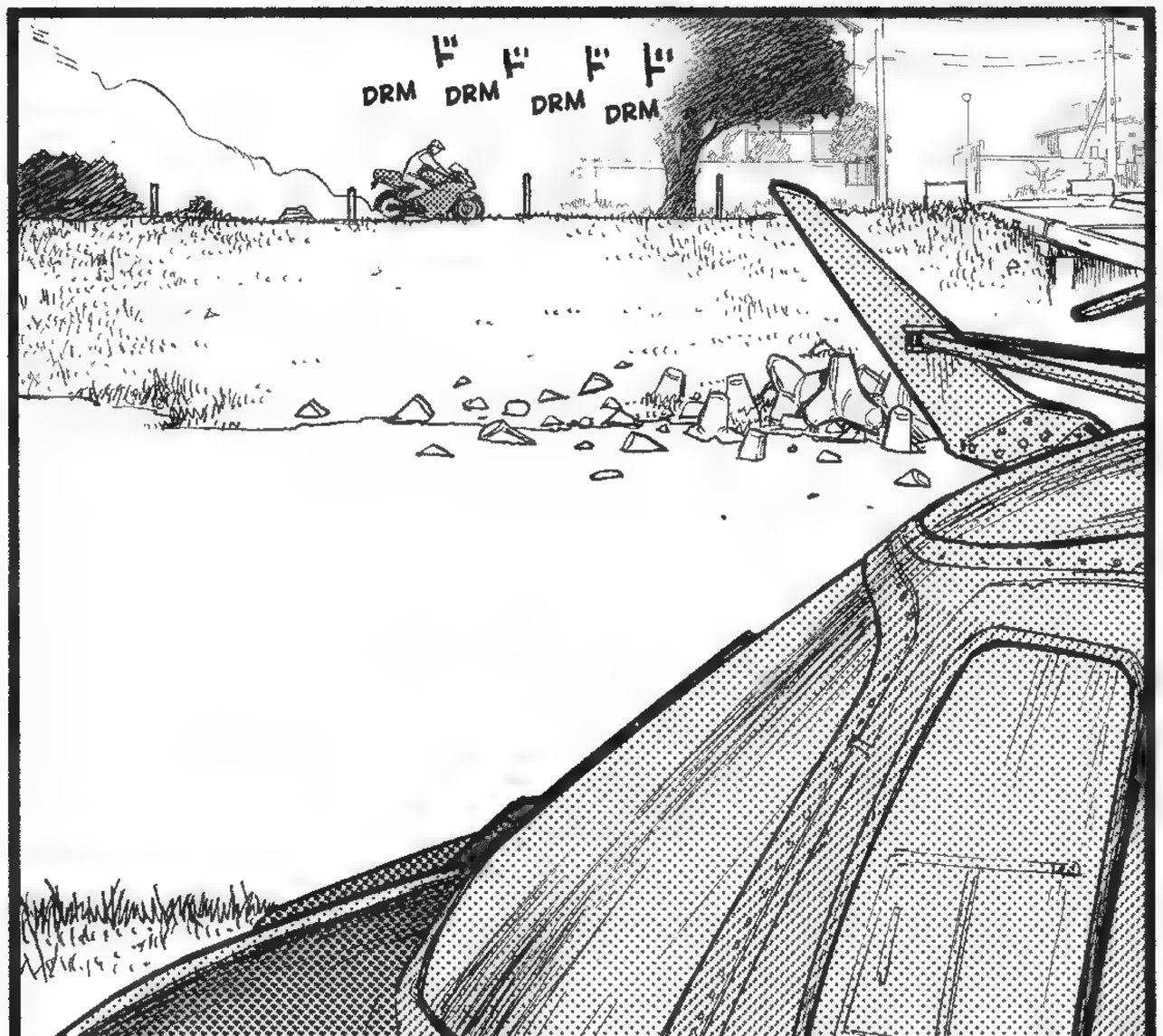
YOU DID GOOD BACK THERE.


FORCES


JA323N
SAITAMA PREFECTURAL POLICE
MITSUMINE




DRM
DRM
DRM


DRM
DRM
DRM
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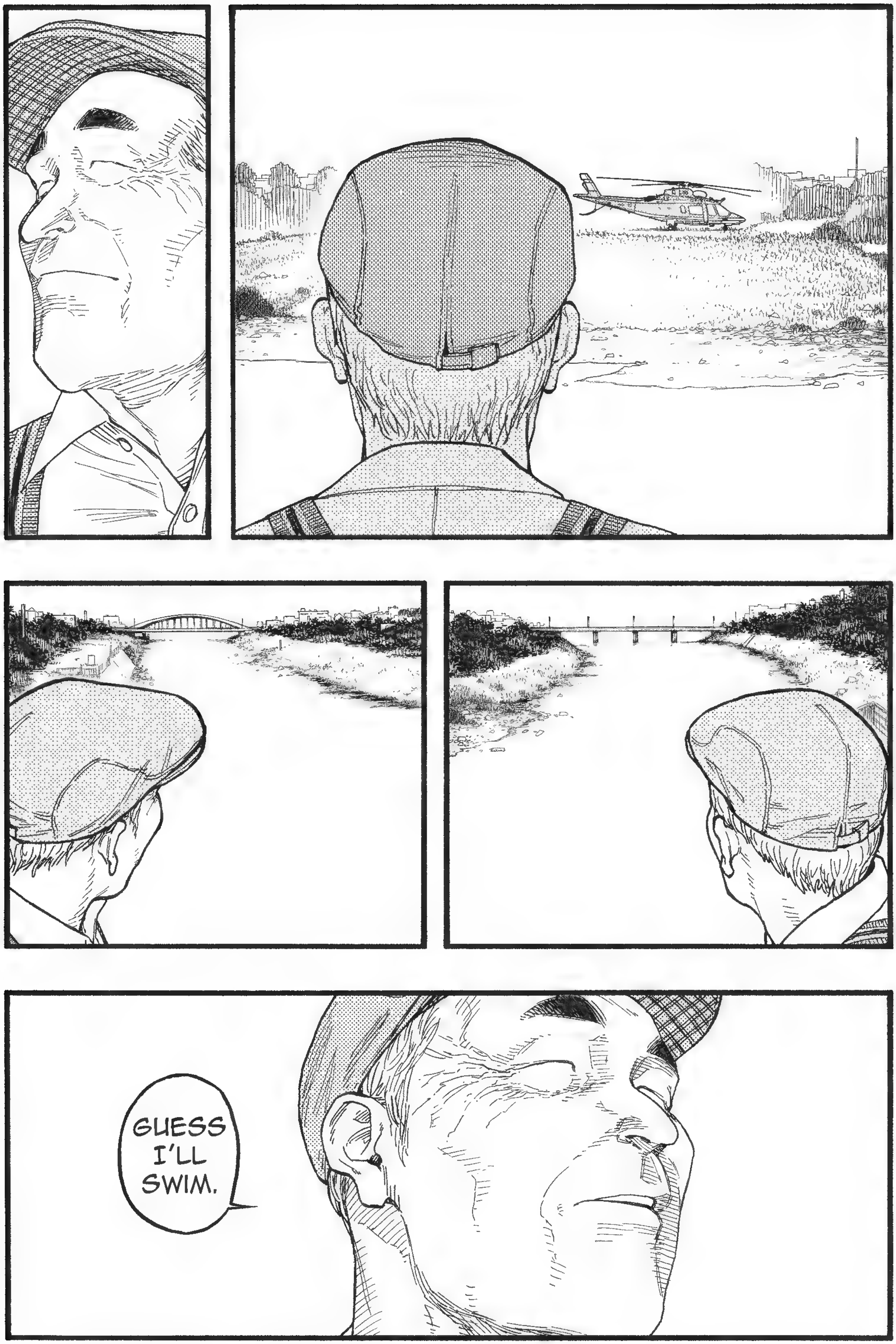
SKREE

CHNK


GUESS I'LL SWIM.

IS THIS REALLY HOW IT ENDS...?

STRIKE BACK

WHAT SHOULD I DO,

NA-GAI?

DIDN'T YOU SEE THE HELI-COPTER?

DID THAT EXPLO-SION... LEAVE YOU STUCK SOME-WHERE?

HUH?

UH,

JUST ON THE NOT FOR NEWS. REAL...

NAGAI WAS DANGLING OFF THE SIDE.

HE LEFT WITH SATO.

IT'S NOT OVER.

HM?

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?

IT'S

NOT OVER YET.

NOTHING'S GOING RIGHT FOR ME.

IT'S ALL BEEN A BUST...

MR. AKIYAMA.

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID?

BUT.

THERE'S MORE TO COME.

I'M CERTAIN OF ONE THING.

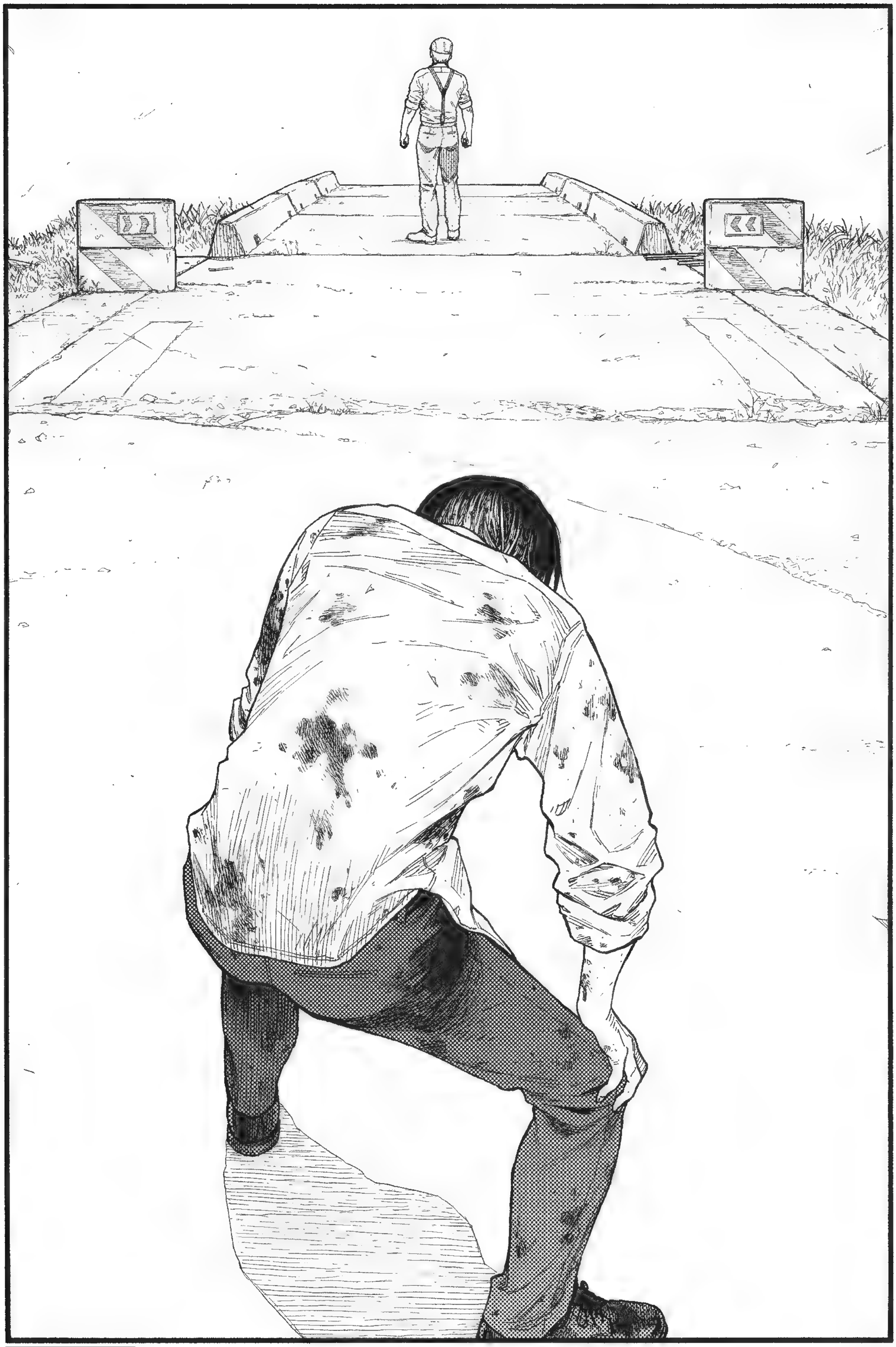
THERE'S JUST ONE TIME...

OF EVERY-THING I'VE DONE,

THAT I DID THE RIGHT THING!

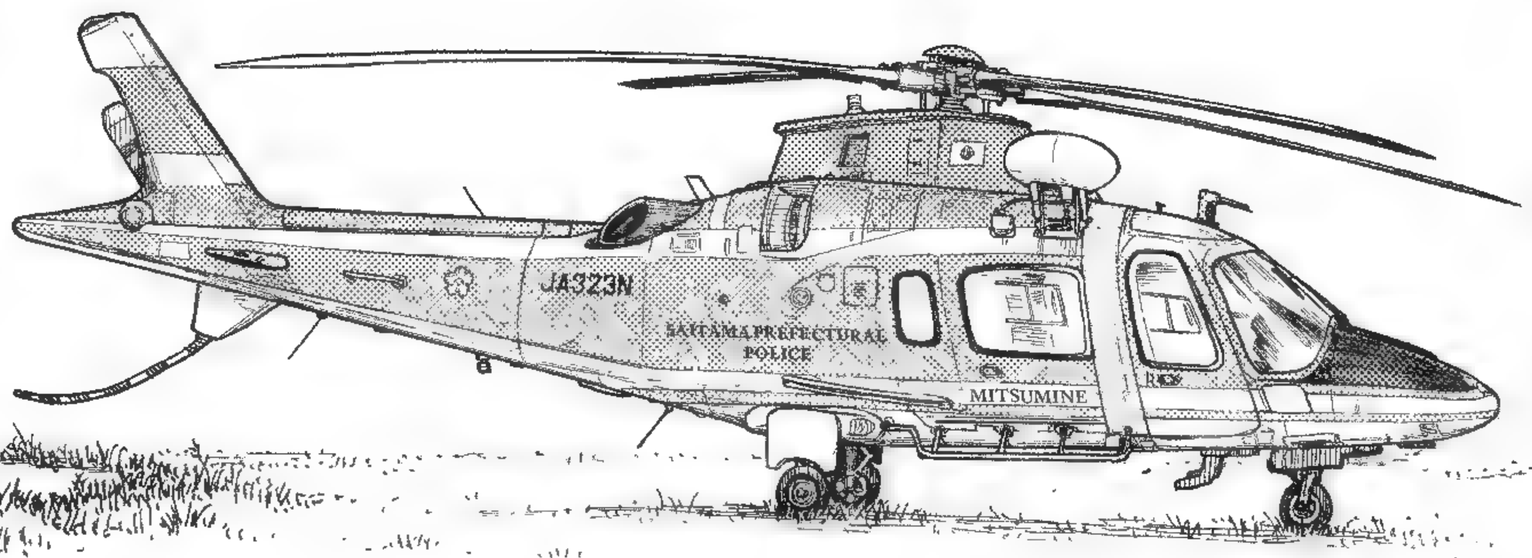
WHEN I CAN SAY FOR SURE

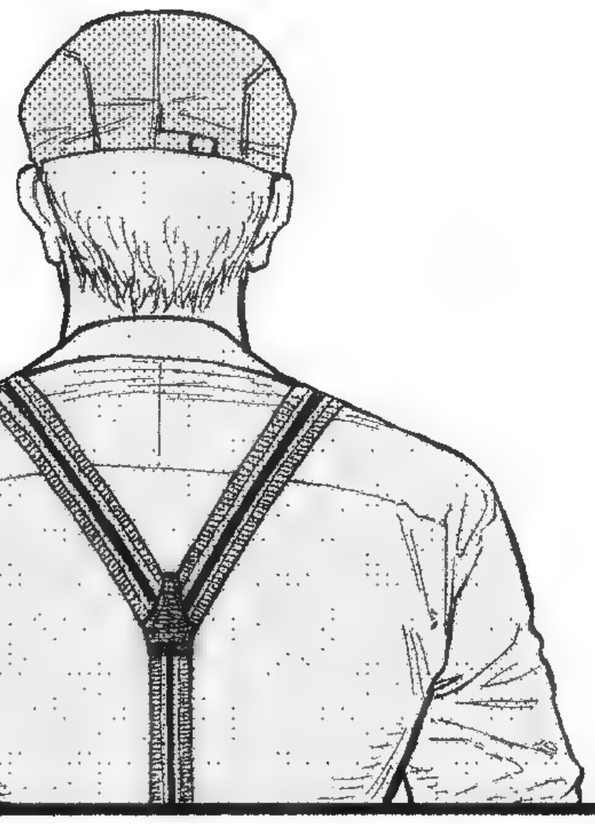
WHEN I WENT TO MEET NAGAI.



File:80 End

HE HAS TO CROSS THE RIVER.





HE'S PROBABLY THINKING SOME-THING LIKE, "GUESS I'LL SWIM."

IF HE JUMPS IN, IT'S ALL OVER.

HE CAN RUN FASTER THAN ME, AND SWIM FASTER, TOO.

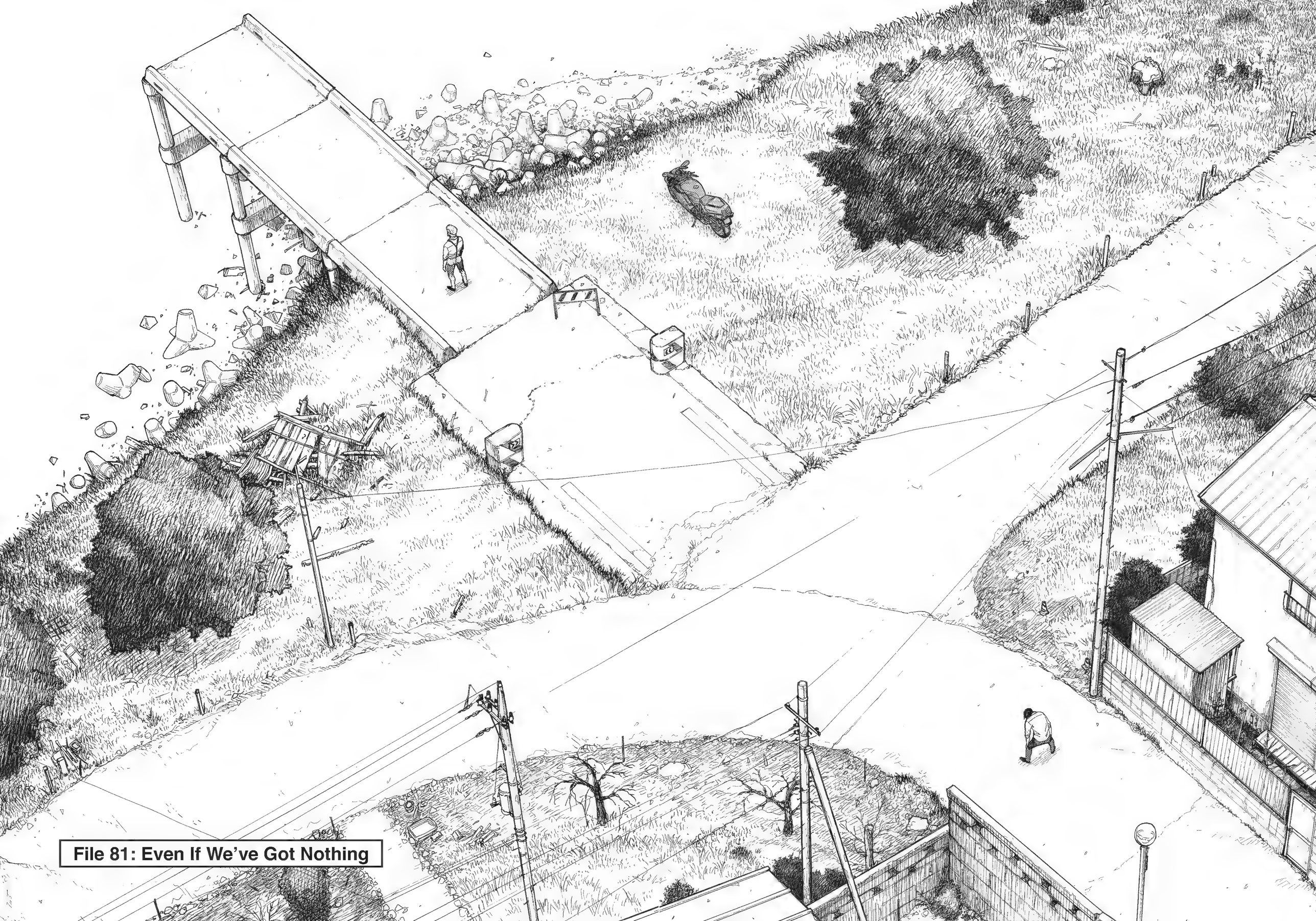
IT'S THE NATURAL THOUGHT.

THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE.

THE LAST CHANCE I HAVE TO GET IN HIS WAY.

MY LAST CHANCE

TO STOP HIM.



File 81: Even If We've Got Nothing

HAAH
HAAH
HAAH

OOZE
じゃ
OOZE
じゃ
ANY-
THING
I CAN
USE...
I
DON'T
HAVE

I...

PROBABLY BECAUSE THERE WAS JUST A FLOOD...

FSSSS

FSSSS

CAN'T FORM MY IBM.

WHAT CAN I DO?

I'VE DONE

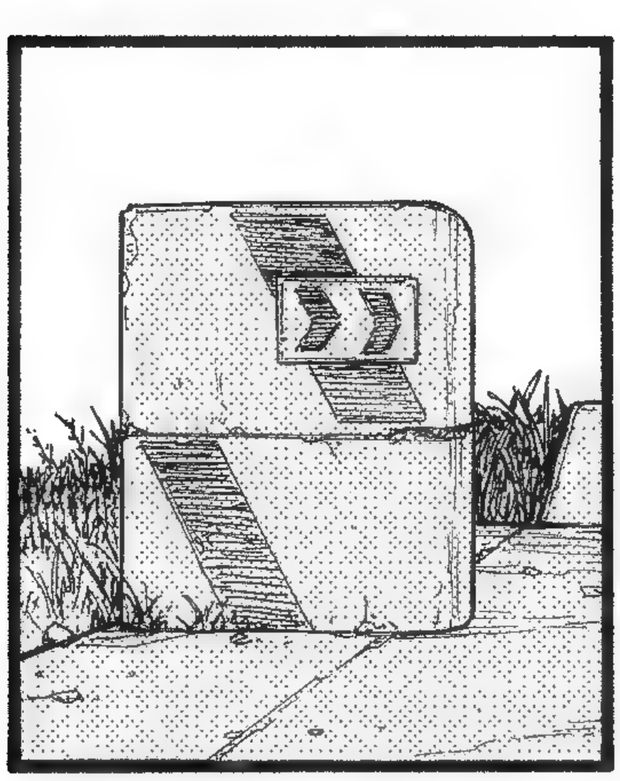
AIM FOR THE BACK OF HIS NECK.

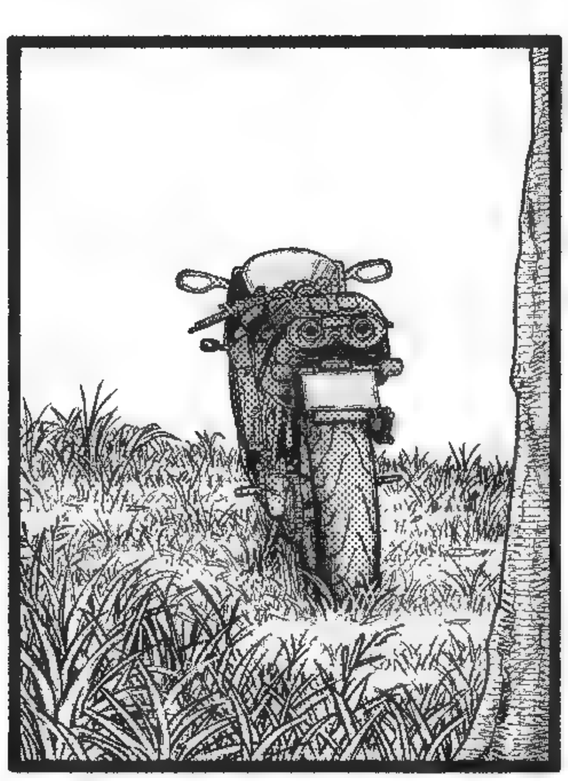
SO MUCH UP TO THIS POINT.

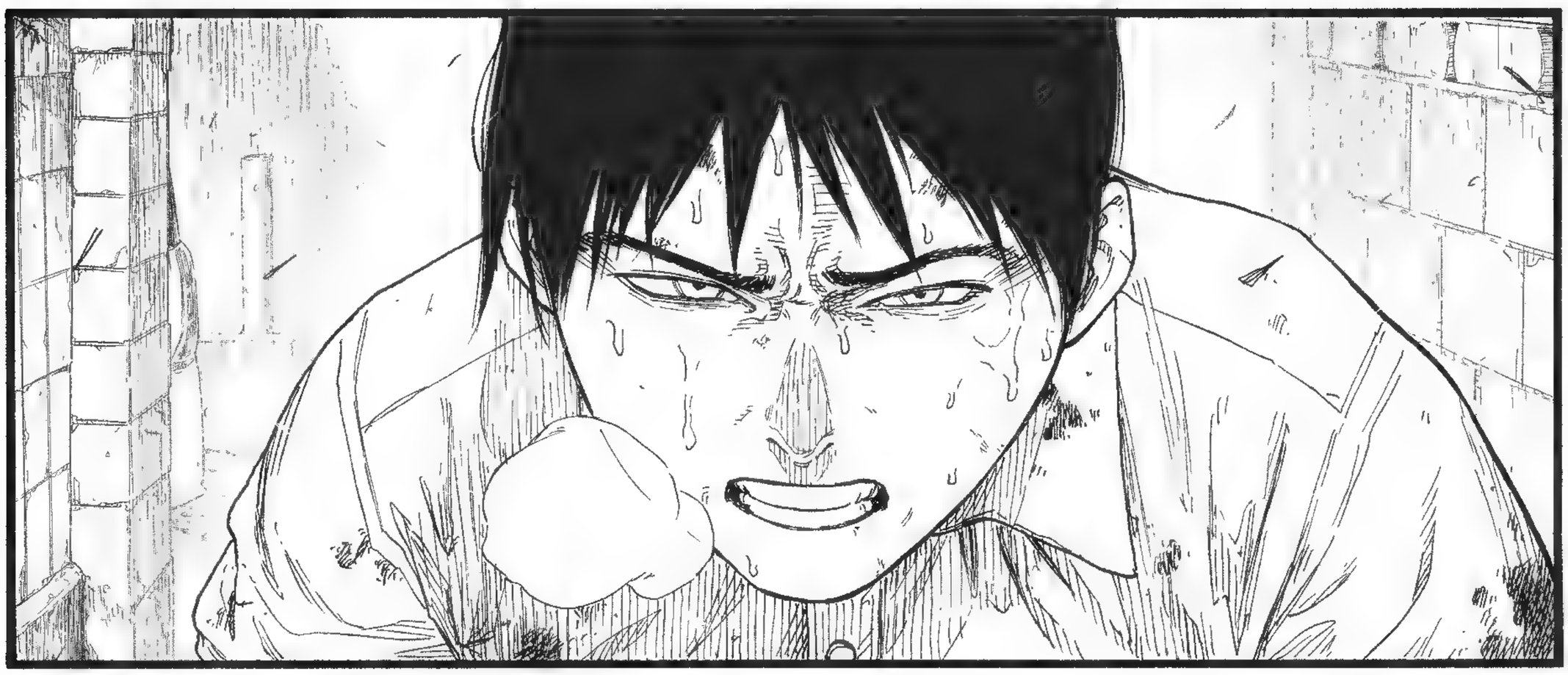
BUT NOW, IN THIS SITUA-TION,

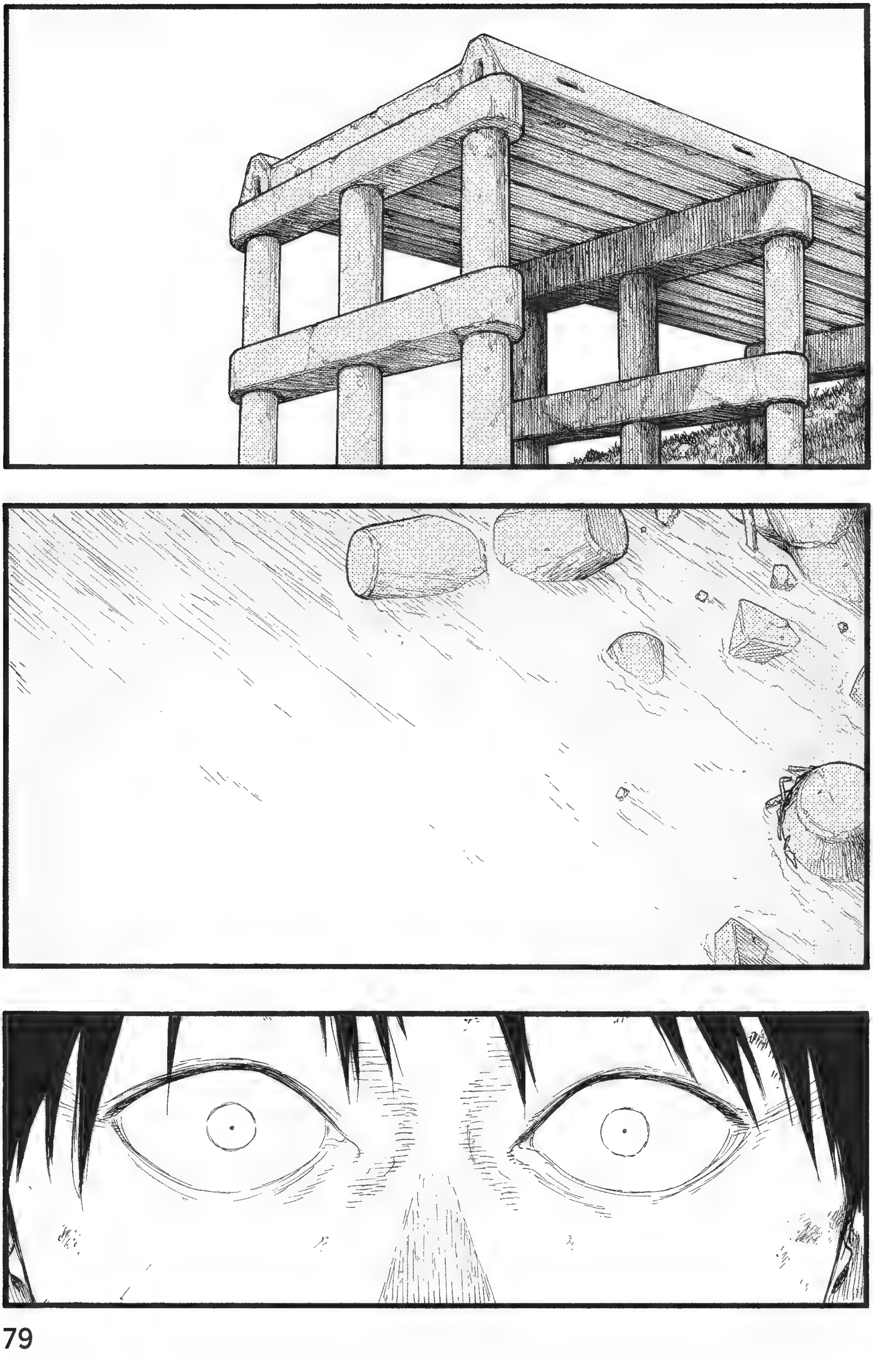
WHAT CAN I POSSIBLY DO?

IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN LEFT WITH NOTHING.









I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU TO NOT DO SOME KIND OF WEIRD POSE WHEN YOU JUMPED IN.

...RISKS,

NO MATTER HOW LOW THE PROBA-BILITY,

THEY CAN HAPPEN.

ZAKK

IT CAN BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU MIGHT EXPECT.

ZAKK

YOUR HEAD GETS HEAVY WHEN YOUR FACE IS SUBMERGED IN COLD

AND THEN COLLECT THE

THEY PASS OUT AFTER HITTING THE WATER.

THIS IS THE KIND OF THING

ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD EVEN CONSIDER !

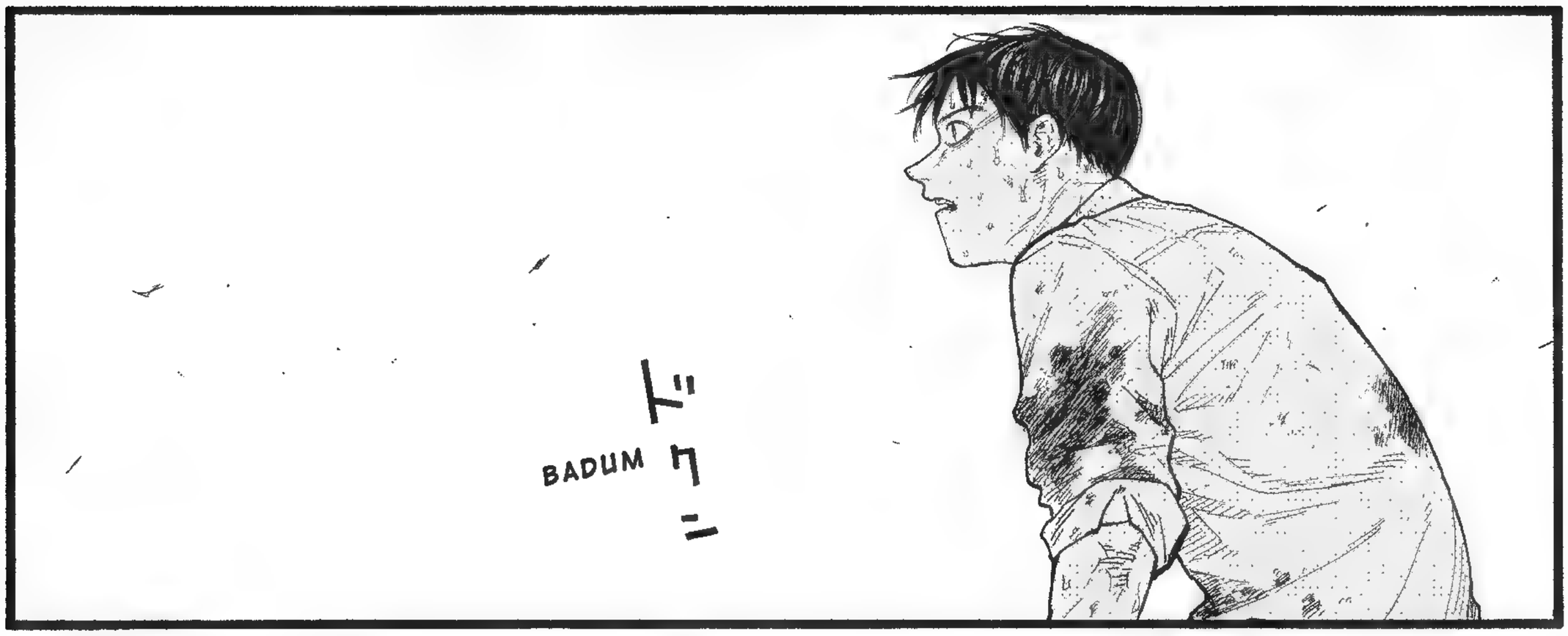
TAK

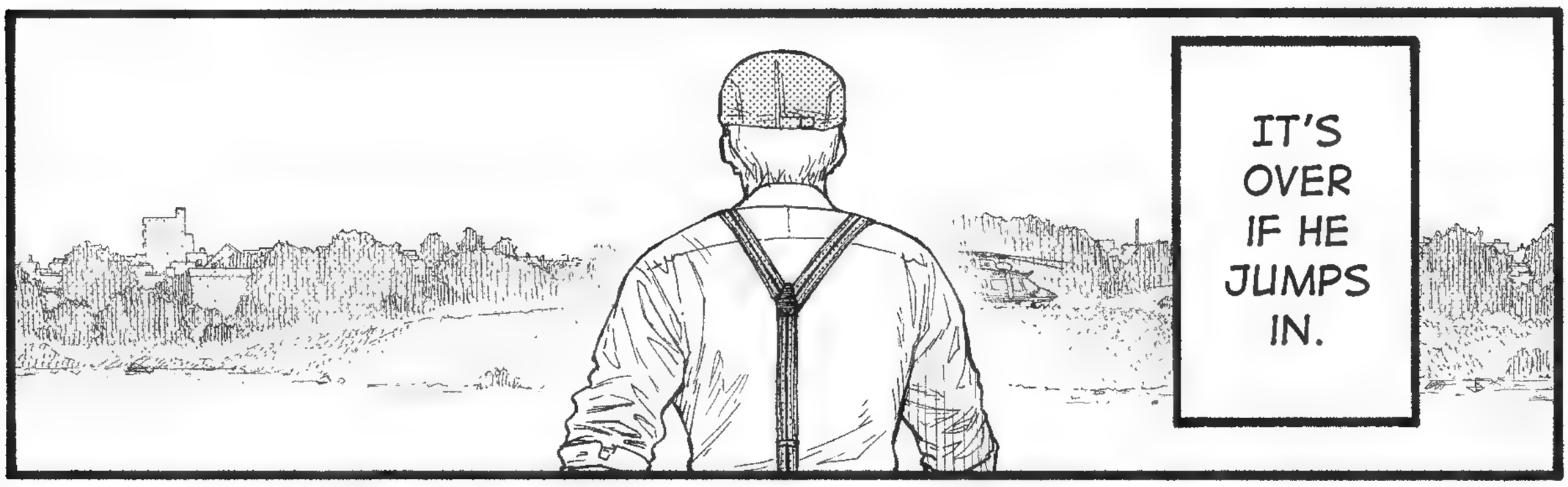
!!

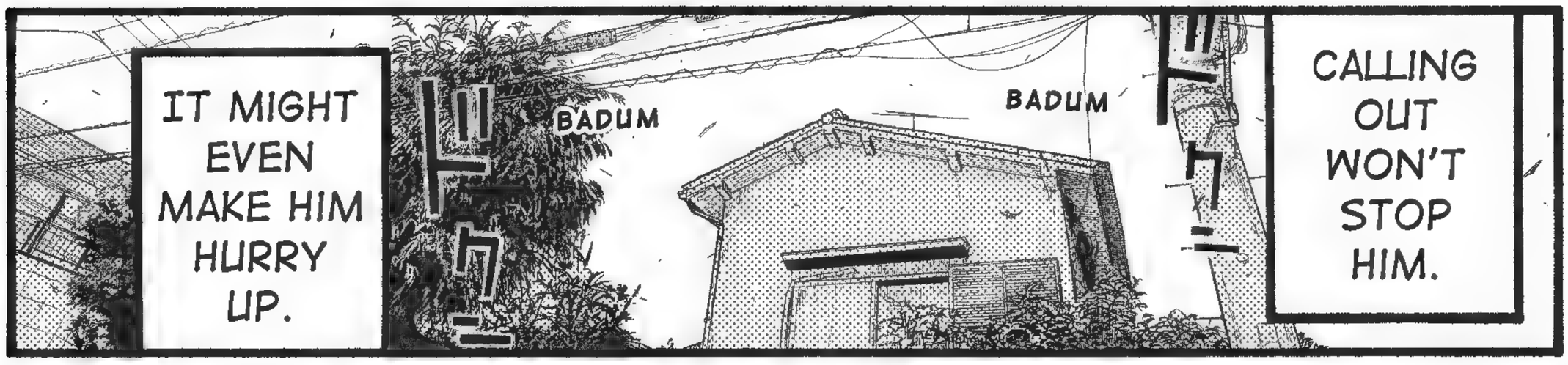
THERE HE GOES.

TAK

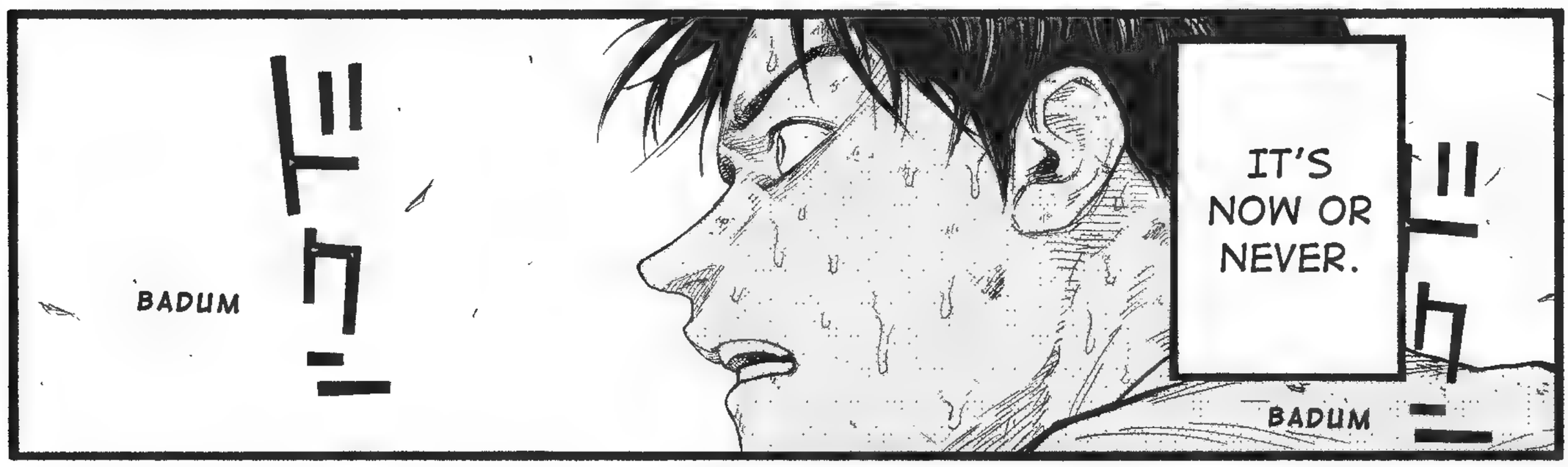
TAK


BADUM


IT'S OVER IF HE JUMPS IN.


IT MIGHT EVEN MAKE HIM HURRY UP.
BADUM
BADUM
CALLING OUT WON'T STOP HIM.

HE'LL BE AT THE EDGE SOON.
HE'S WALKING DOWN THE BRIDGE.


BADUM
IT'S NOW OR NEVER.
BADUM

BADUM

WHATEVER I DO HAS ONLY A TRIVIAL EFFECT,

EVEN IF

BADUM

BADUM

IF I DON'T START RUNNING THIS VERY MOMENT,

BADUM

BADUM

EVEN THAT.

I'LL LOSE

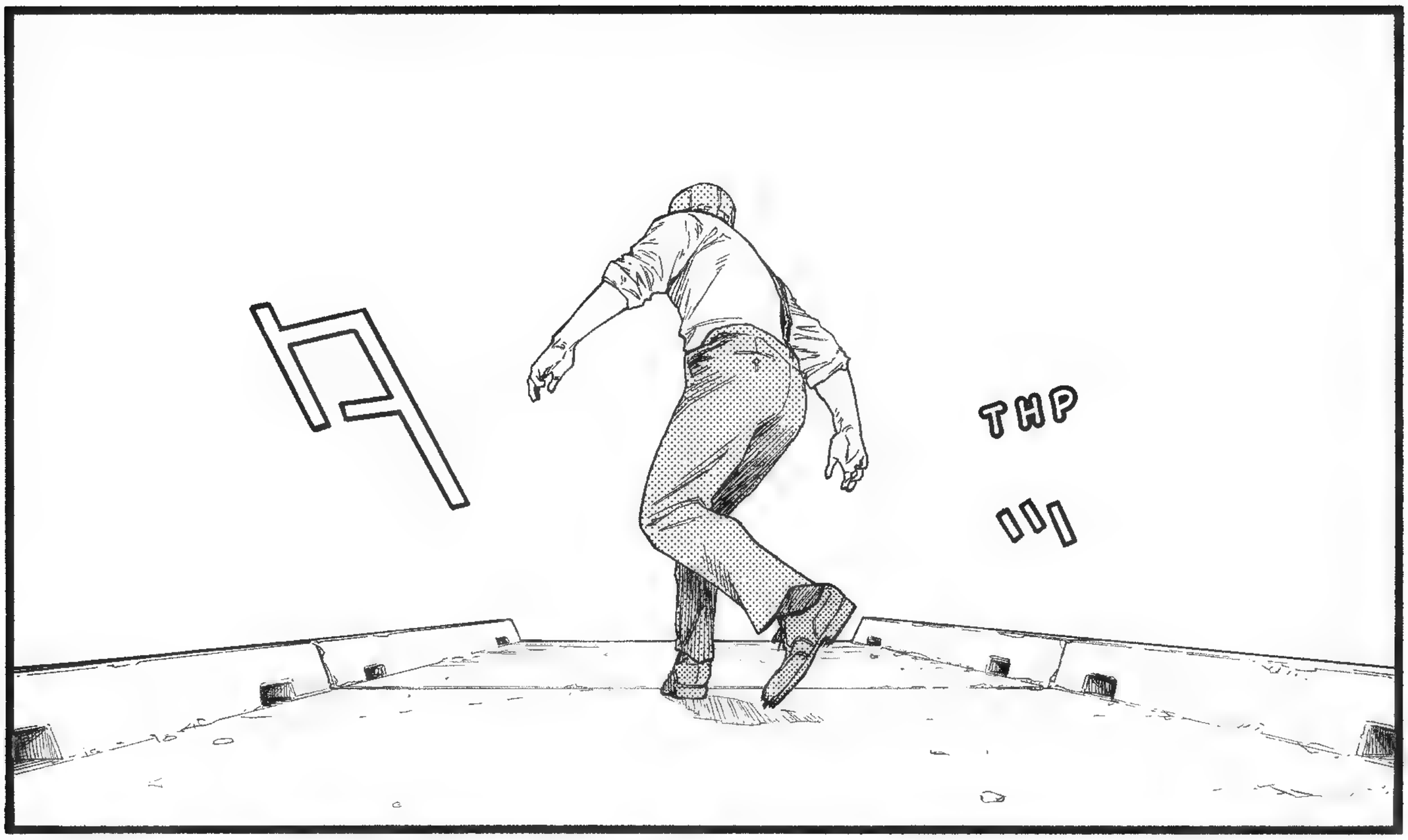
BADUM

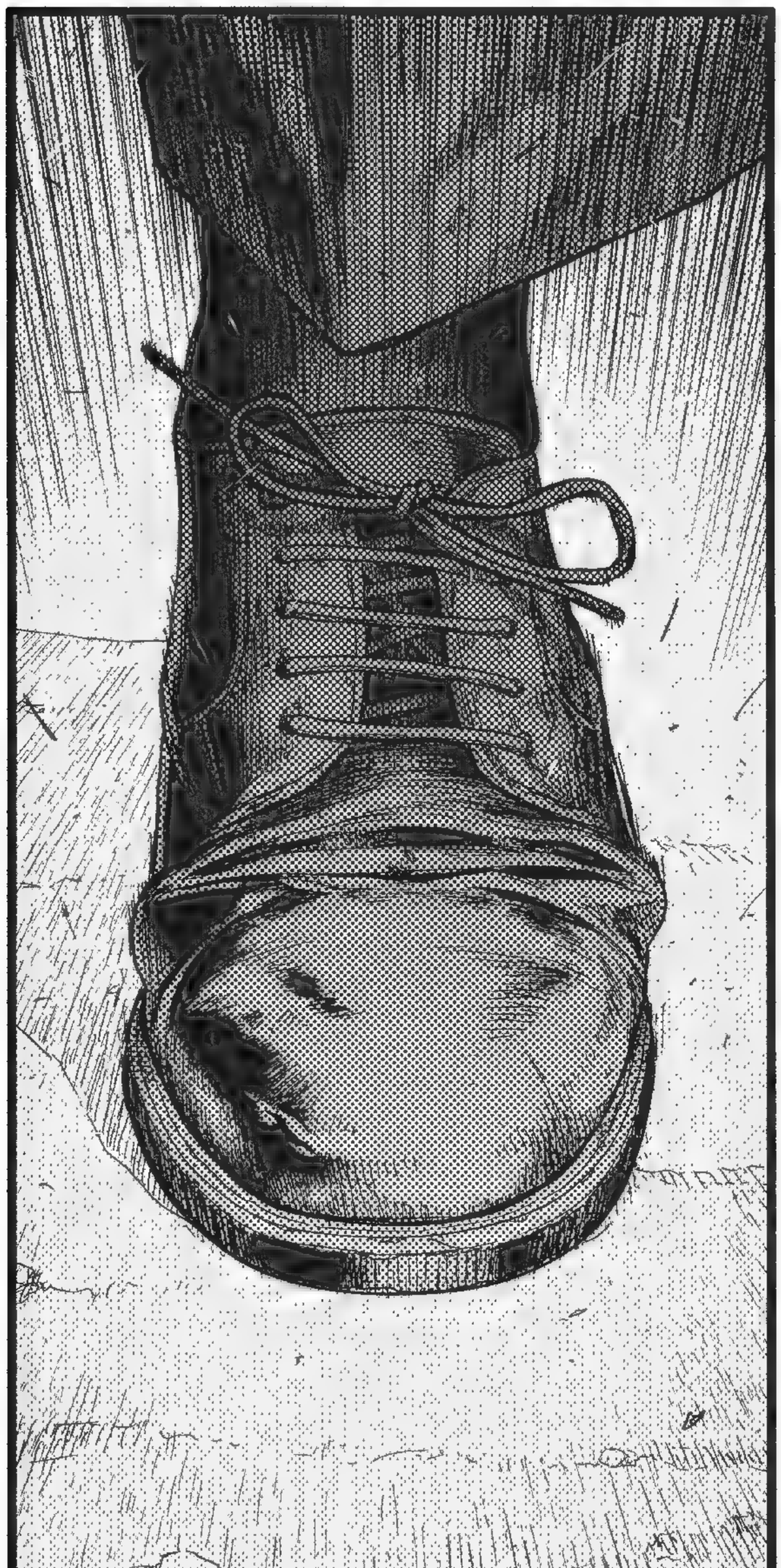
I'LL NEVER AGAIN HAVE EVEN THE SMALLEST CHANCE TO MEDDLE IN HIS FATE.

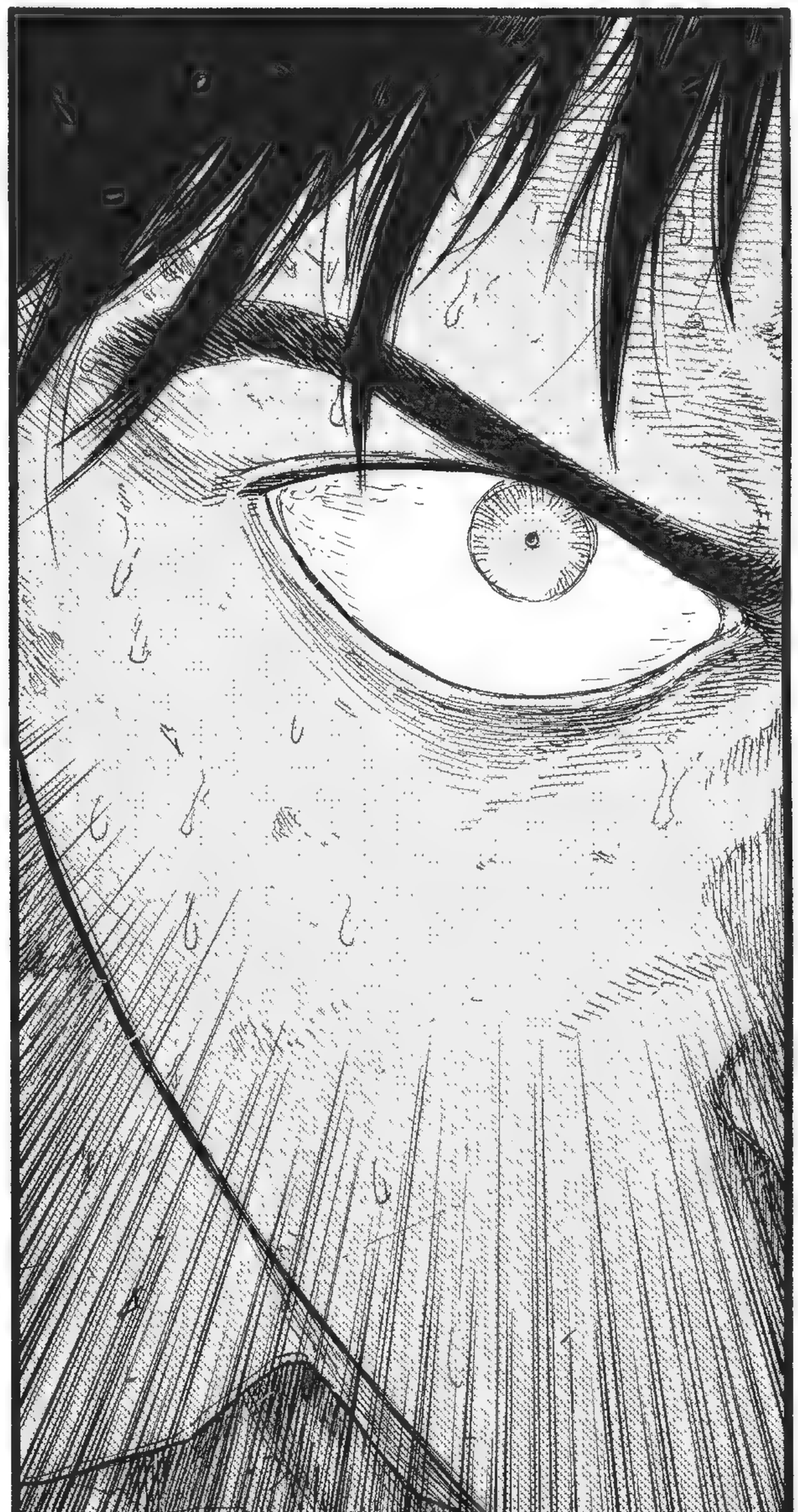
BADUM

"FIGHT-
ING TO
THE END
EVEN IF
WE'VE
GOT
NOTH-
ING."

HM?
THD
THD
THD
THD
YOU ALREADY GOT YOUR MEMORY BACK?
SO,
THD


THP
111





DAMMIT!!

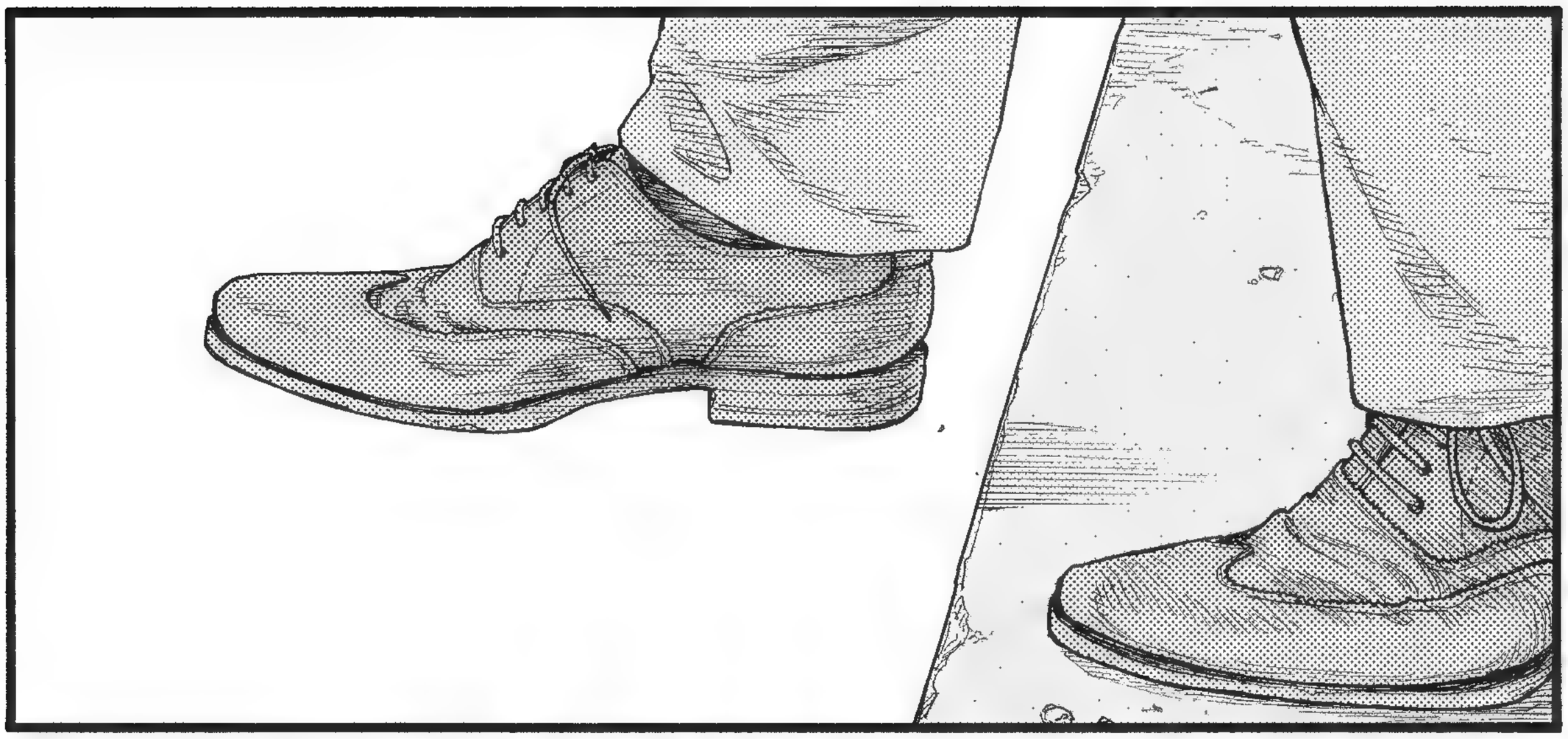
DASH

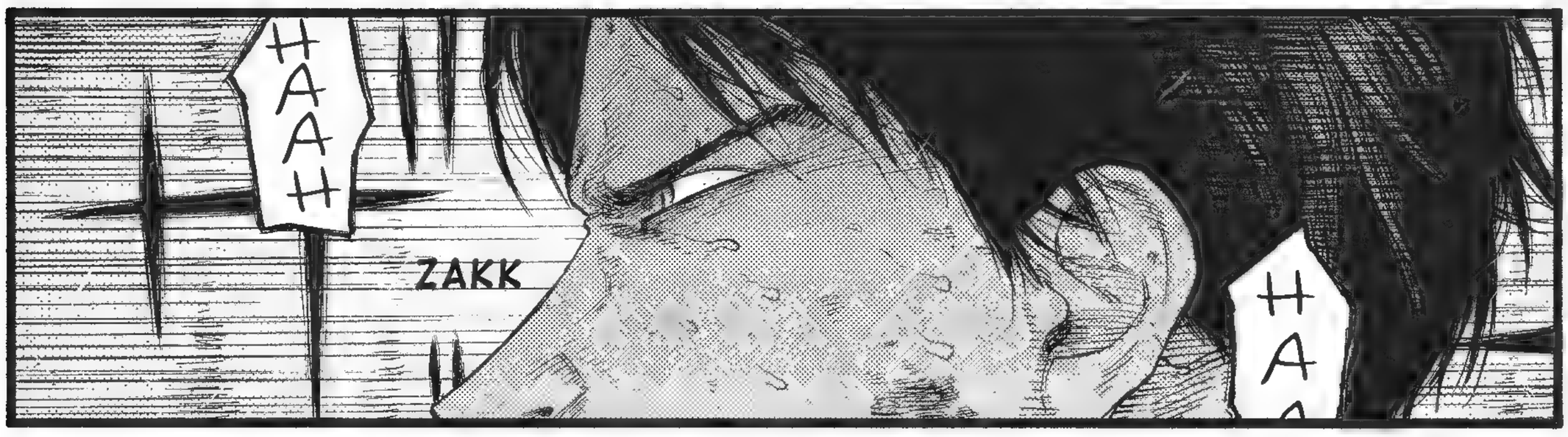
HAAH

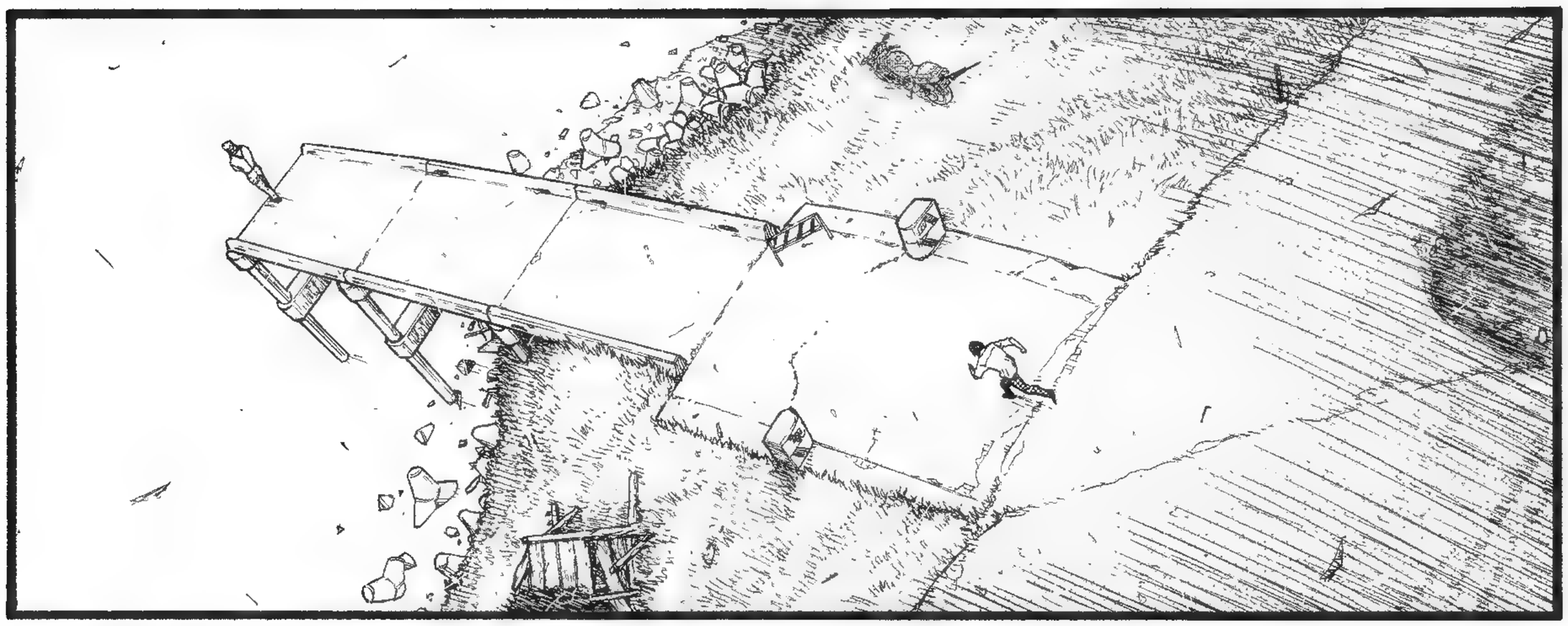
HAAH

ZAKK

ZAKK

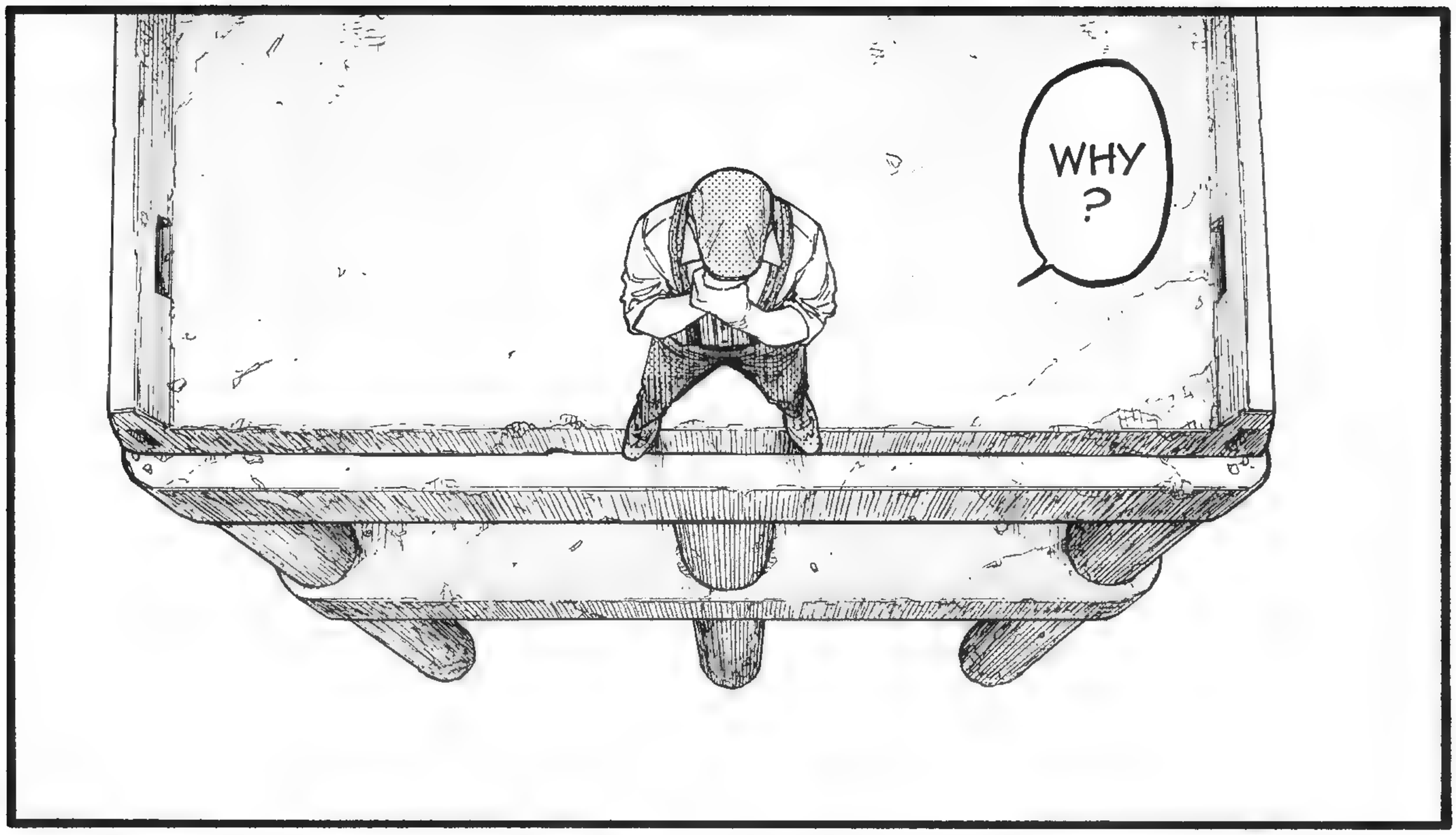


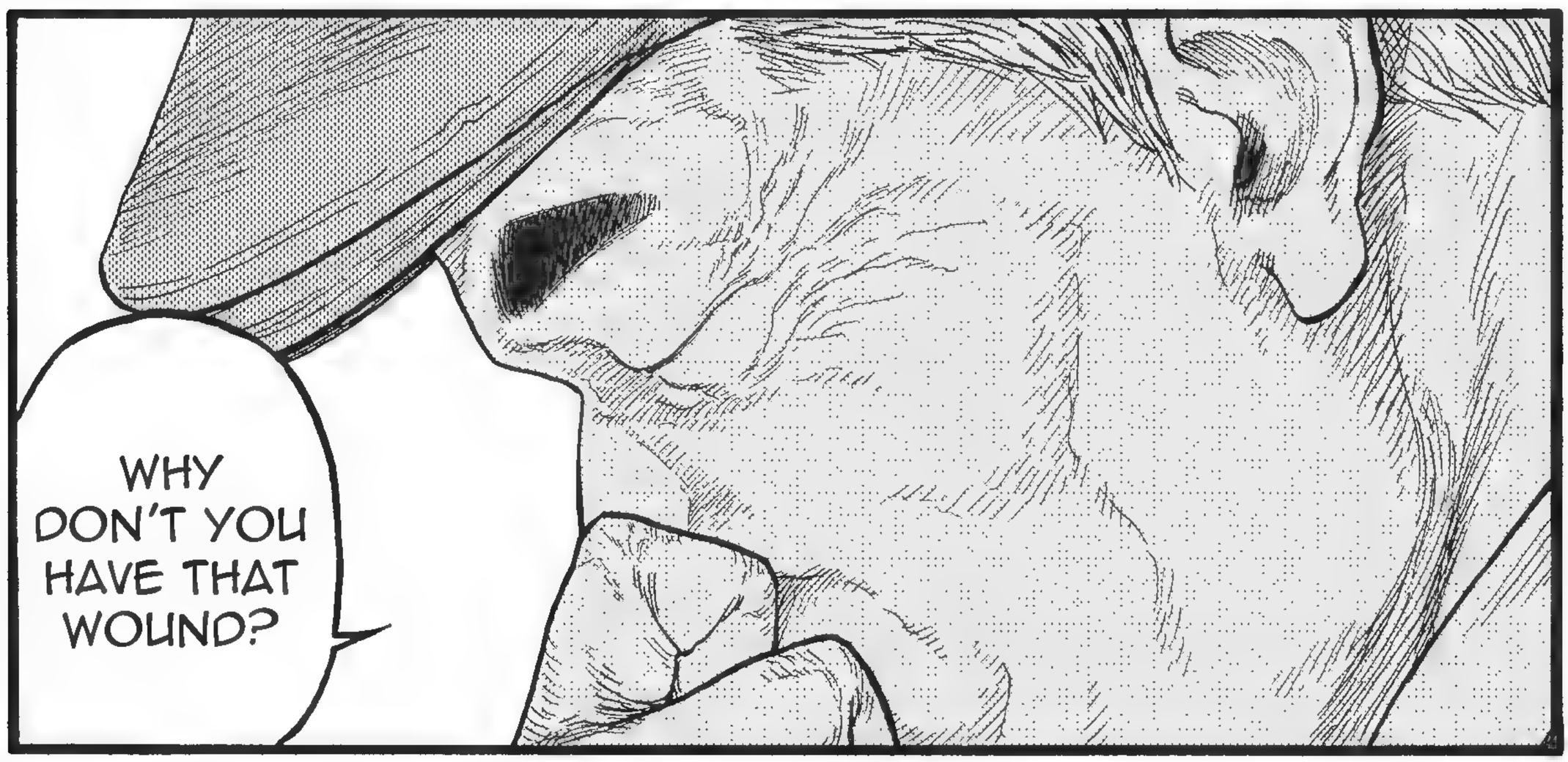

HAAH
ZAKK
HA



HAVE WE...
MET SOME-WHERE BEFORE?

TUNK


WHY ?


WHY DON'T YOU HAVE THAT WOUND?

DID YOU RESET?

OWW!

NO.

IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'D SUFFERED A DEADLY INJUR...

!

REALLY ?

COULD IT BE THAT YOUR MEMORIES DIDN'T COME BACK ON THEIR OWN?

BY KILLING YOUR-SELF?

DID YOU MAKE THEM COME BACK ...

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DEMI-HUMAN!

LOOK HOW FAR YOU'VE COME! WELL DONE!!

HA

HA

HA!

YOU KNOW WHAT?

YOU REALLY ARE A WORK OF ART!

IN ALL OF HIS-TORY,

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A CONFLICT LIKE THIS BETWEEN TWO DEMI-HUMANS!

I'M SURE OF IT!!

HAAH
HAAH

WHIP

ALL RIGHT !

ONE MORE ROUND !

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE HOPING FOR.

BUT THIS!

DAKS

ｴﾀﾀ

ｴﾀﾀ

NAGAI!

THIS IS THE FINAL BAT-TLE!!

LIKE
I GIVE
A SHIT
!!

WHAM

BODY HEAT.

THE SKEL-ETON INSIDE.

MUSCLE AND SKIN.

HEART-BEAT.

RIGHT.

YOU'RE NOT A SUPERMAN OR A MONSTER.

YOU CAN'T RUN FROM YOUR OWN PHYSICAL SYSTEMS.

NOR CAN YOU RESIST GRAVITY.

WHAT ARE YOU HOPING FOR,

NAGAI ?

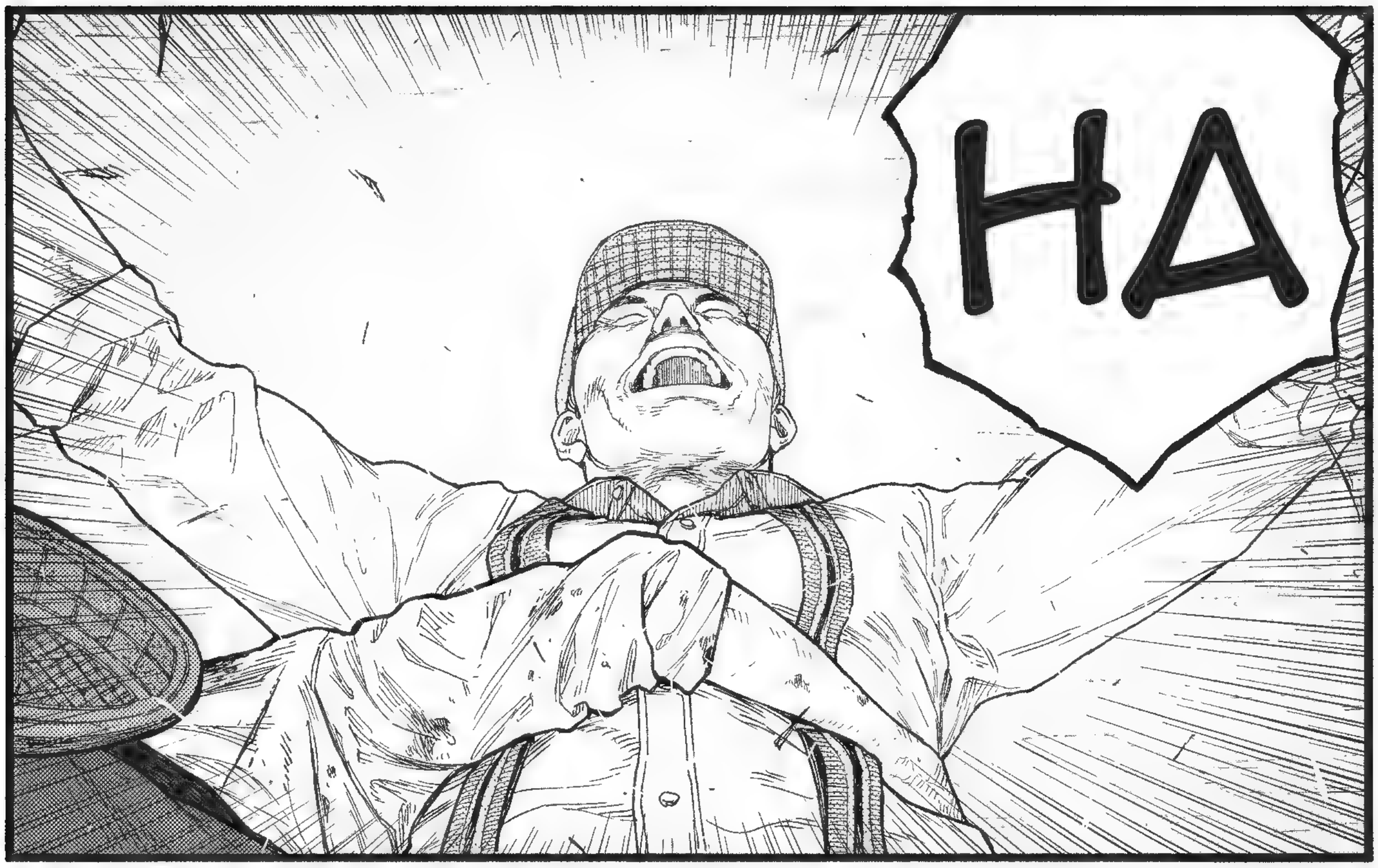
DOESN'T AMOUNT TO MORE THAN A HUGE GAMB...

EVEN THIS

AH. COULD IT BE?

I'LL TAKE THAT BET.

FINE.


HA

HA

HA

THE FINAL BATTLE.

SATO.

YOU'RE —

JUST A HUMAN BEING.

SPLOOSH
ドボー

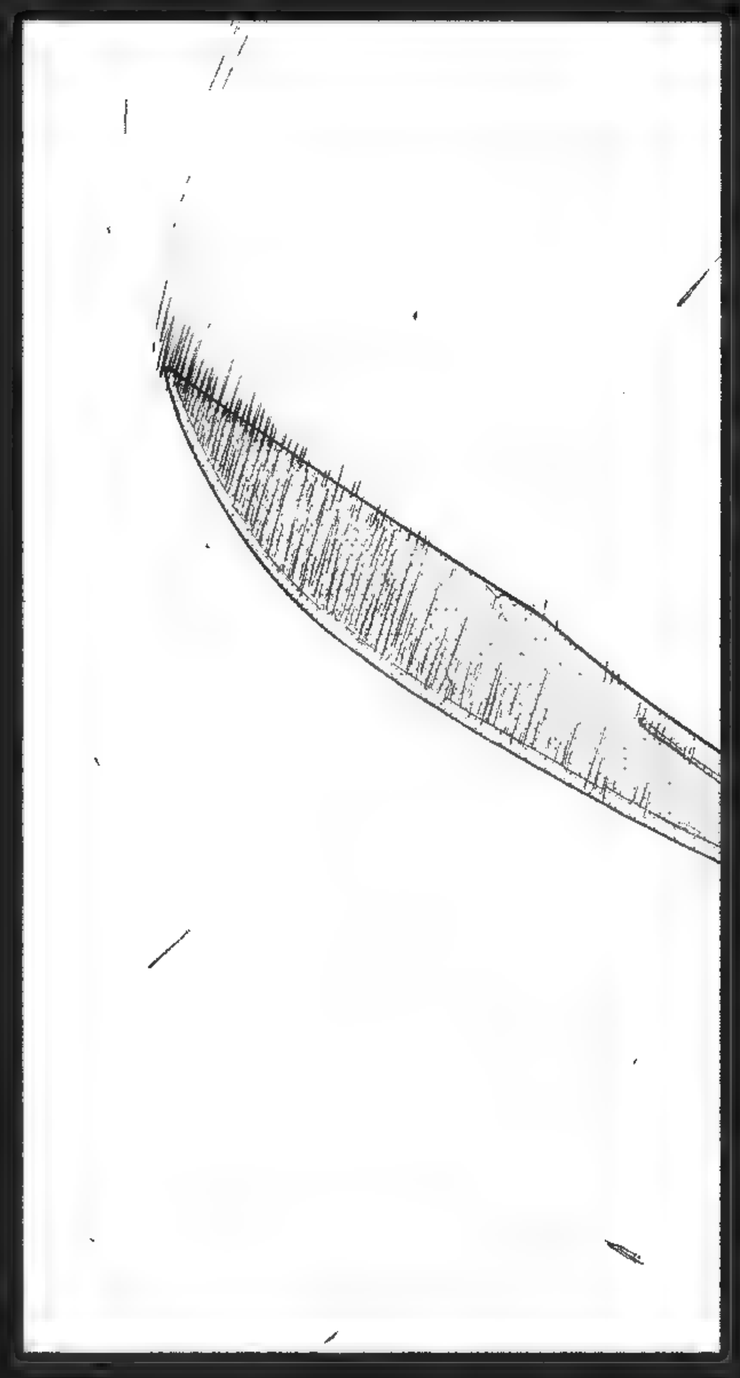
File: 82

MITSUMINE

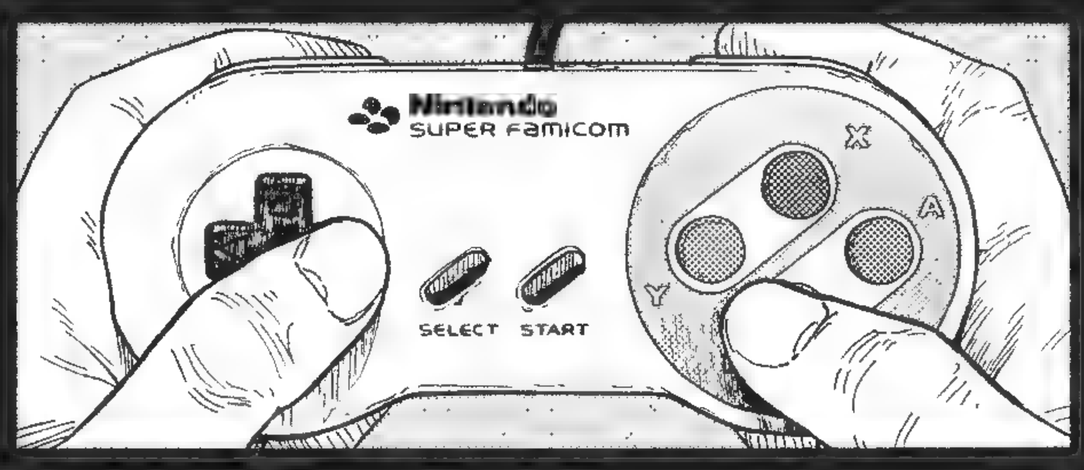
SBLOOOSH

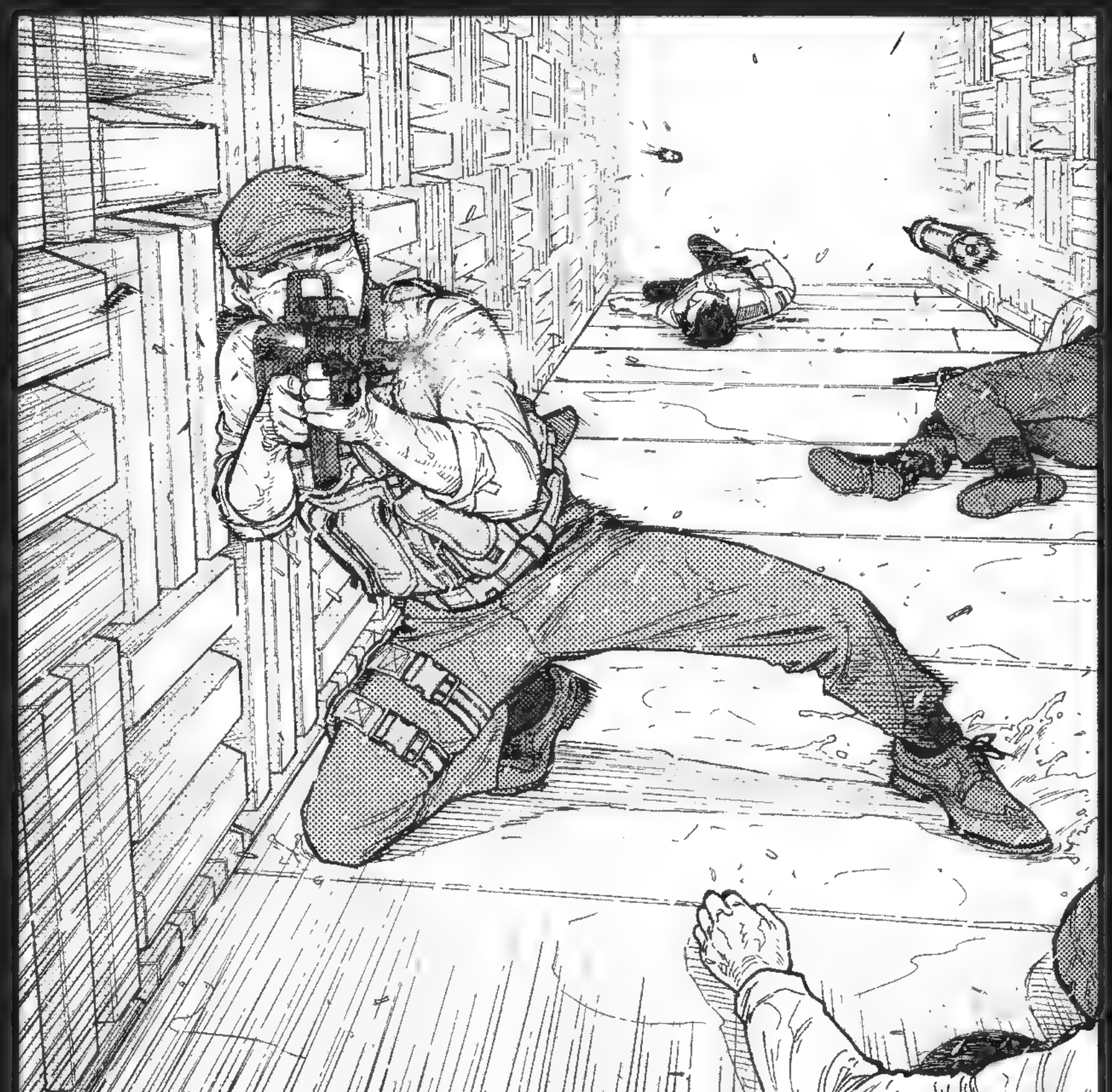
ドッ SPP
ボ〜〜 LOOSH
...

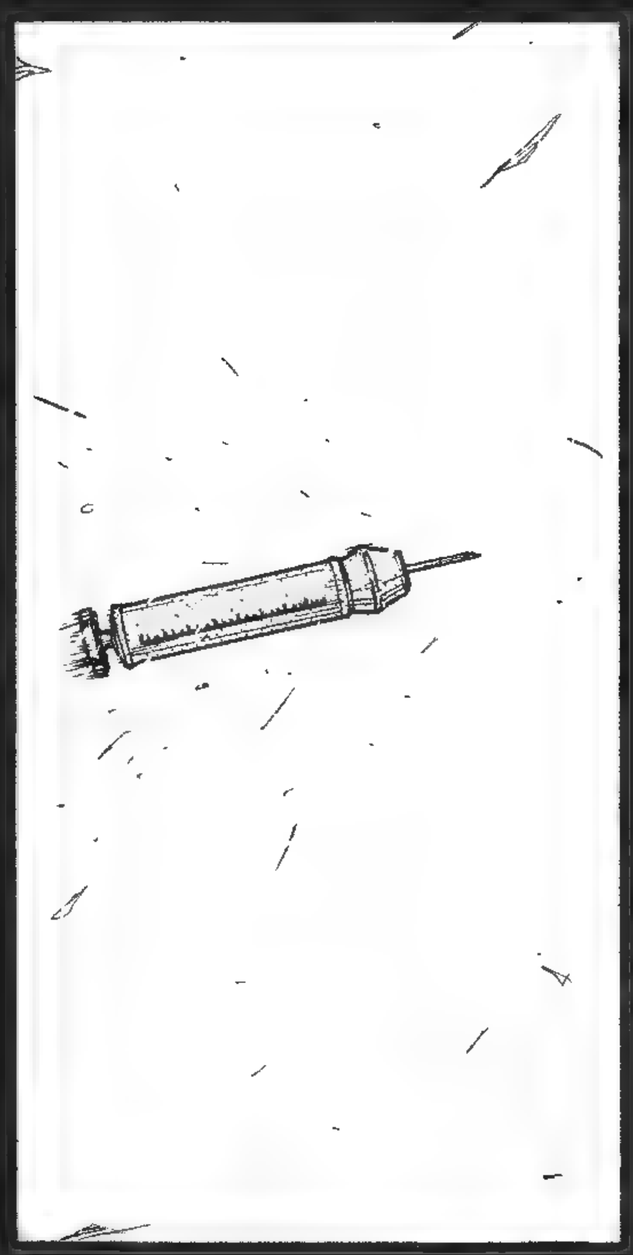
START
BLA

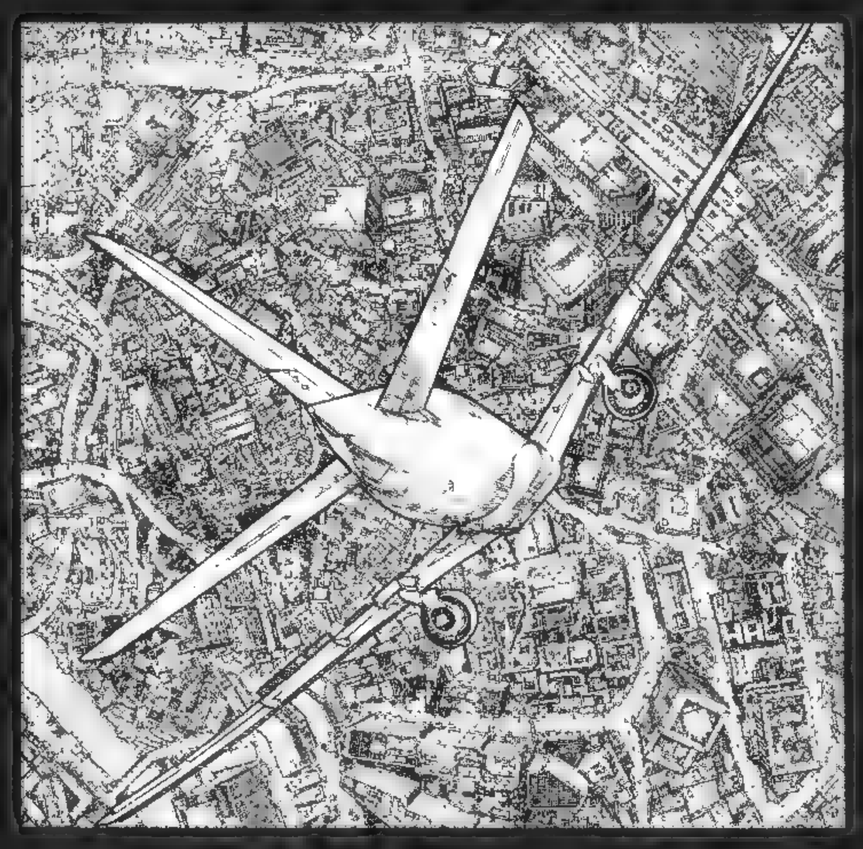


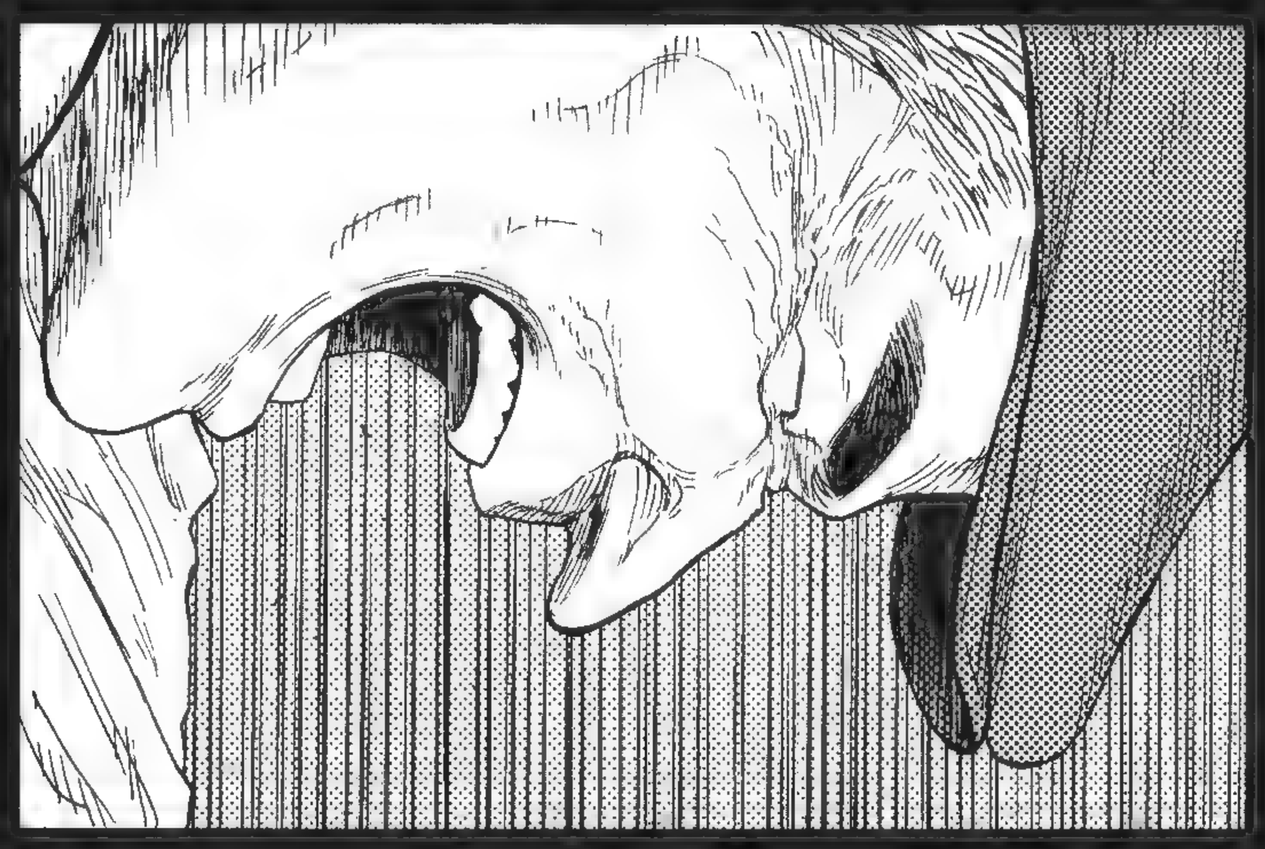
XBOX


Nintendo
SUPER FAMICOM
SELECT
START

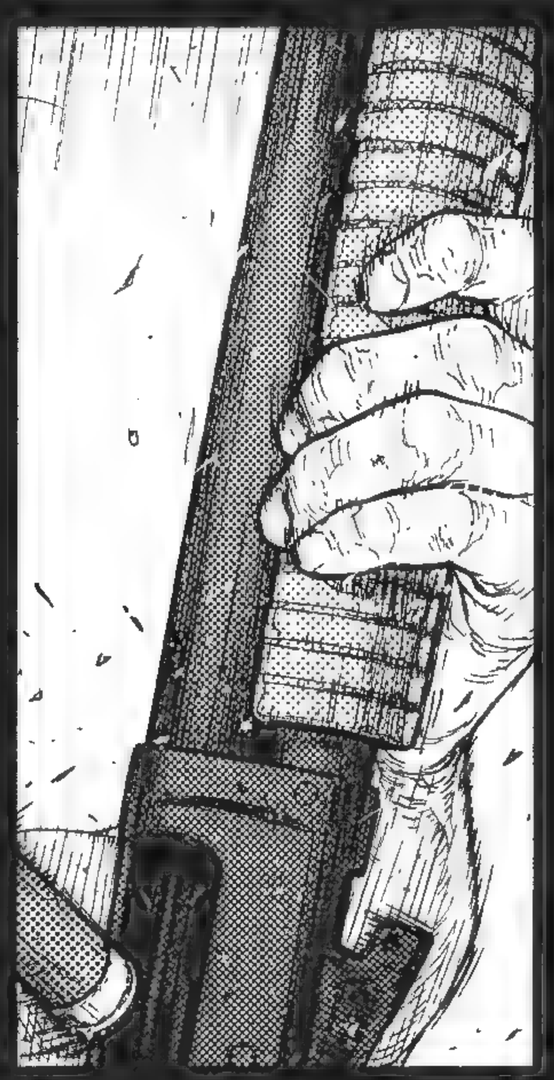


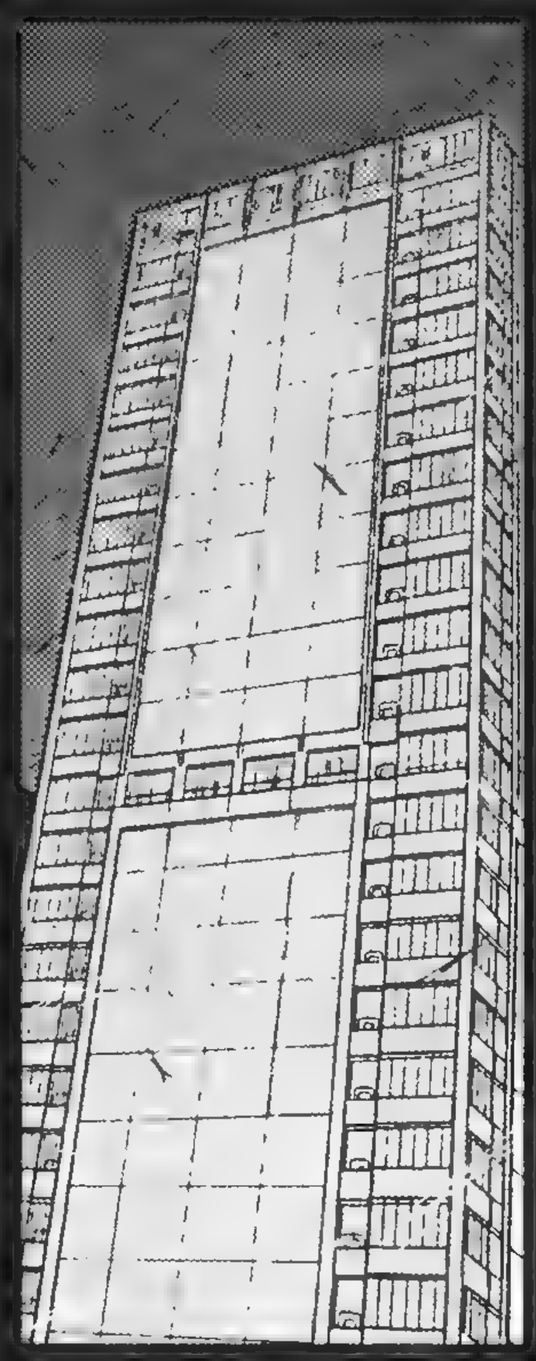


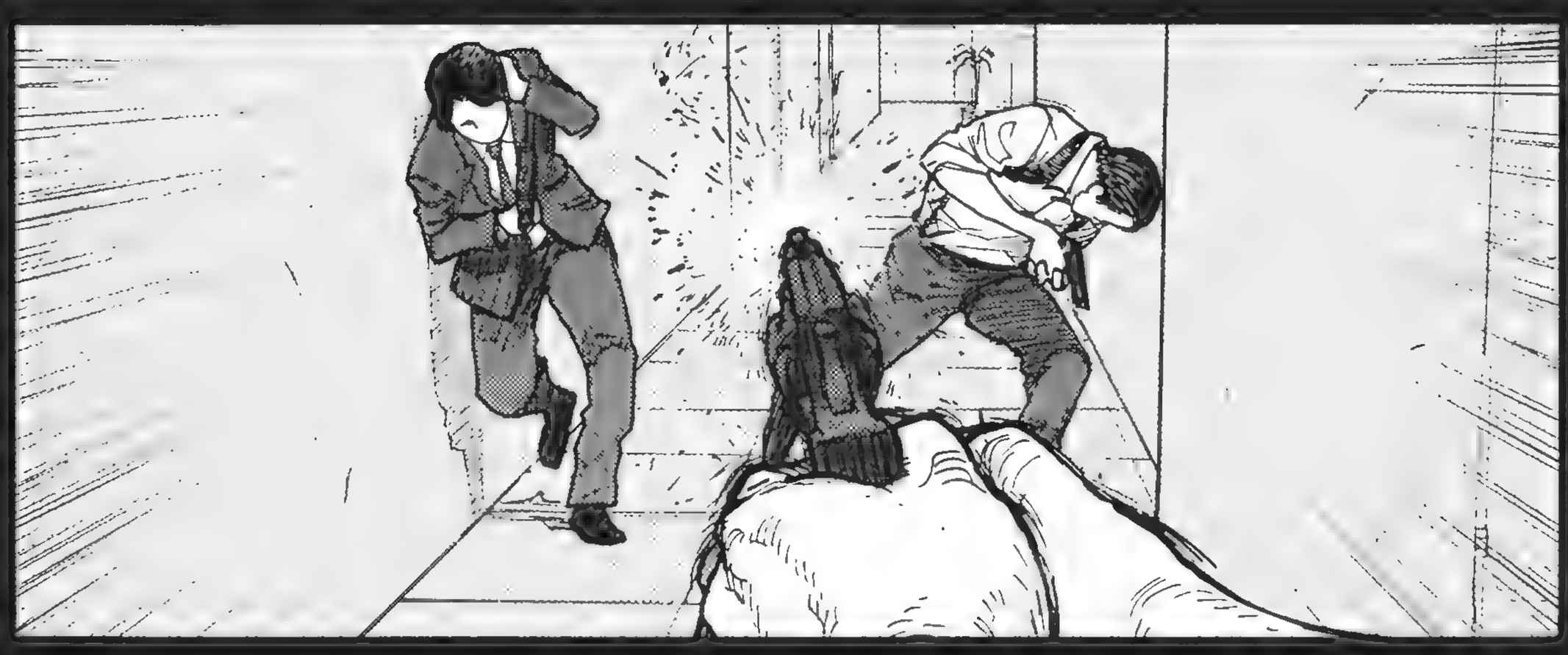


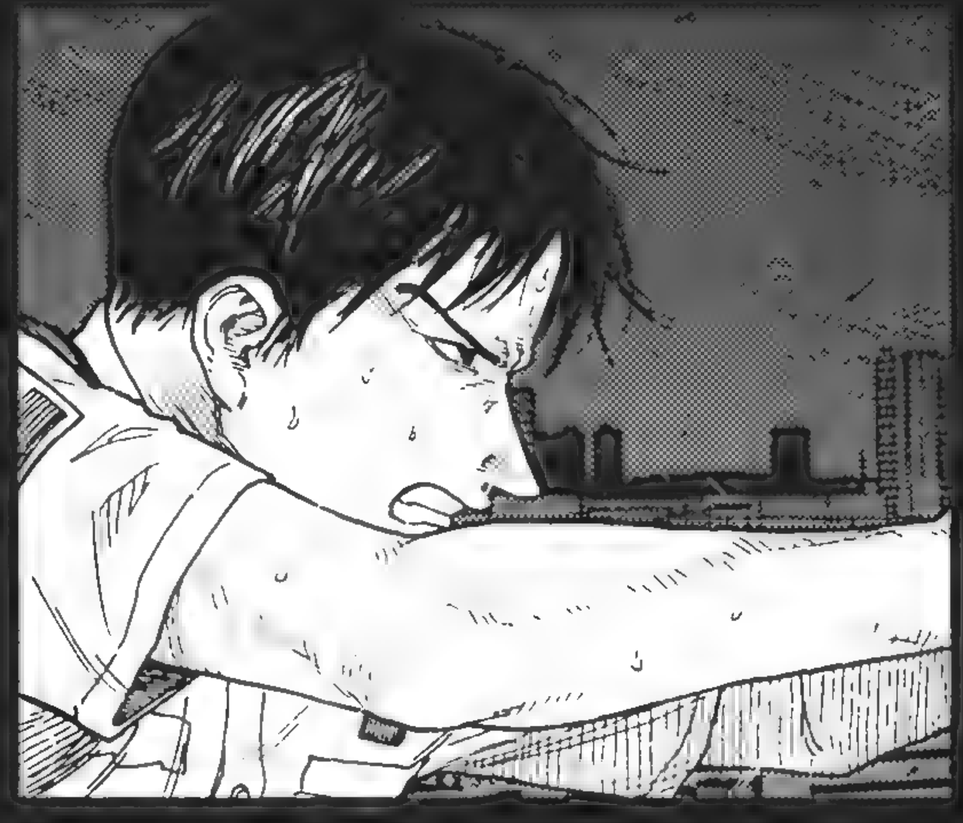


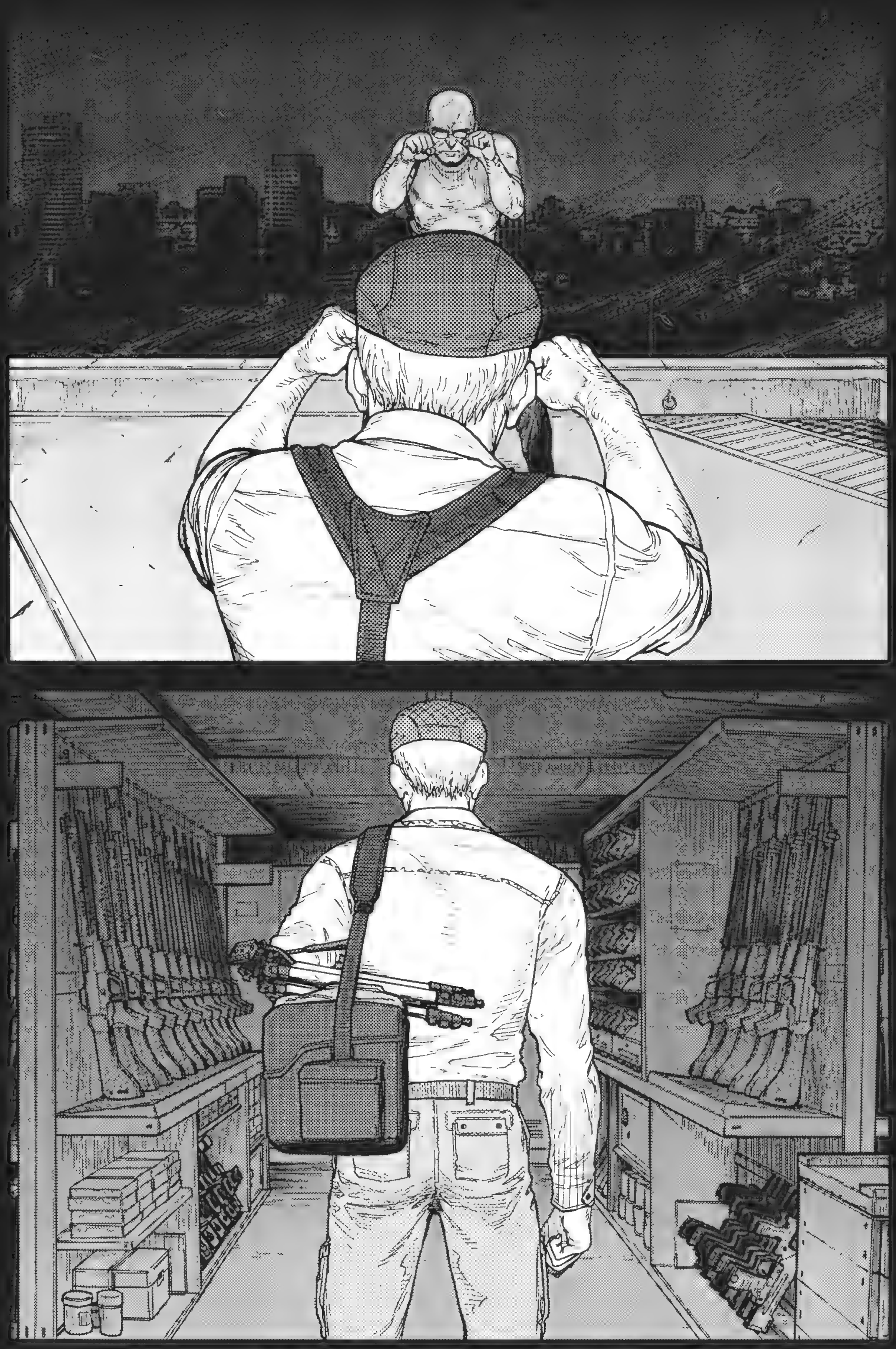
METROPOLITAN
POLICE DEPT











Man...

Now that was fun.

File 82: At the End of the Journey

NAGAI
...

UNABLE TO COMPLETE CALL

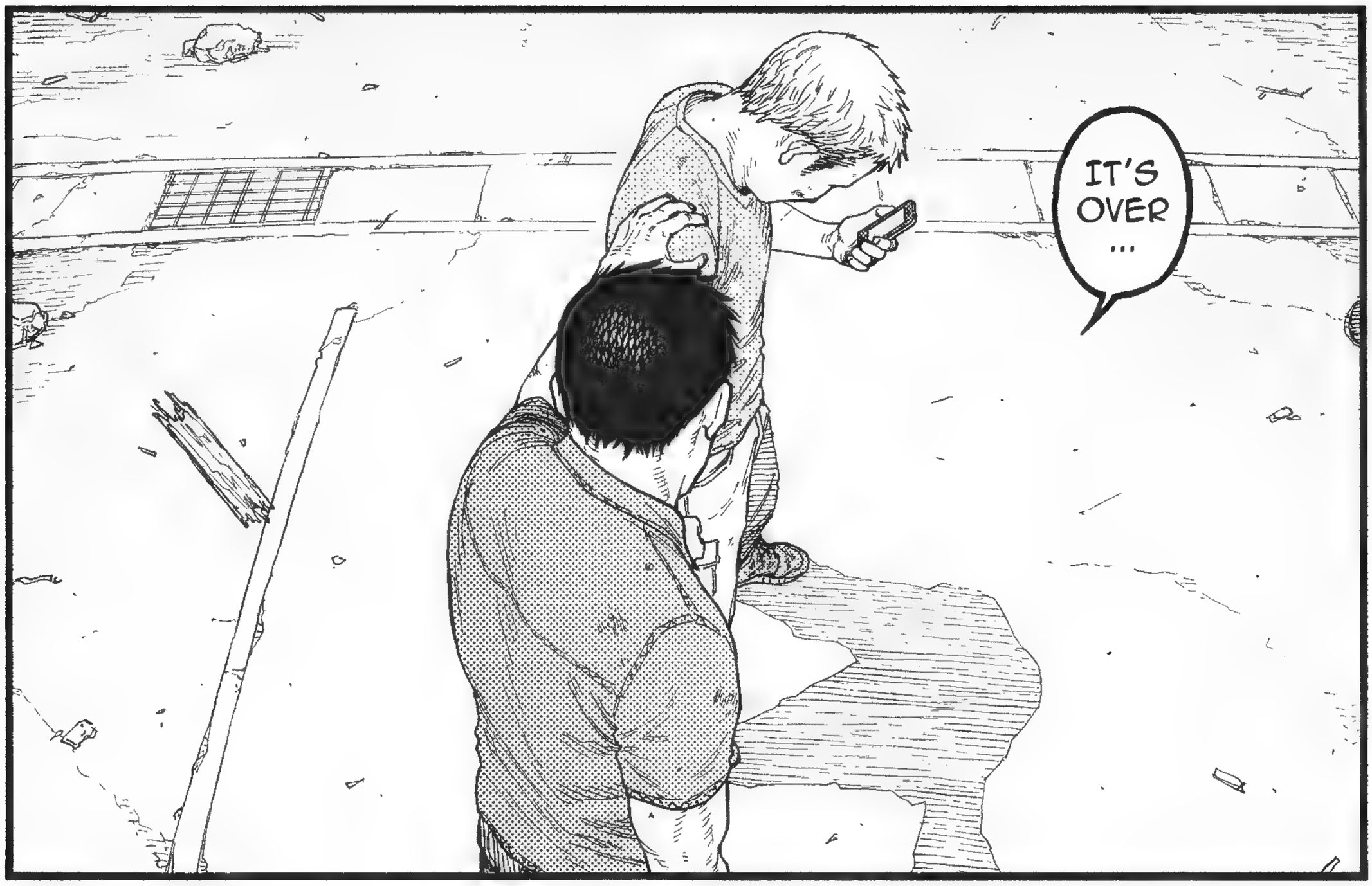
WHERE'S THE BATTLE ...?

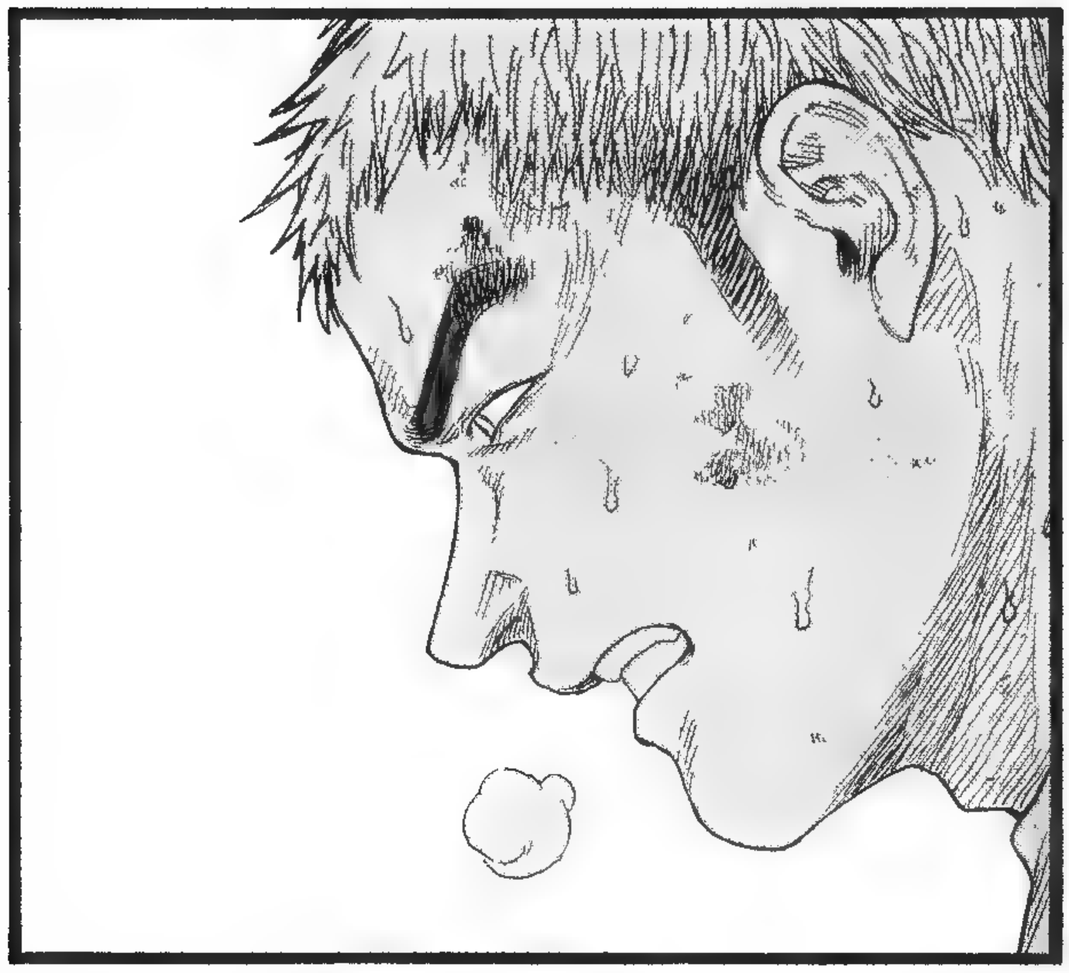
ANTI-BCMO SPECIAL FORCES

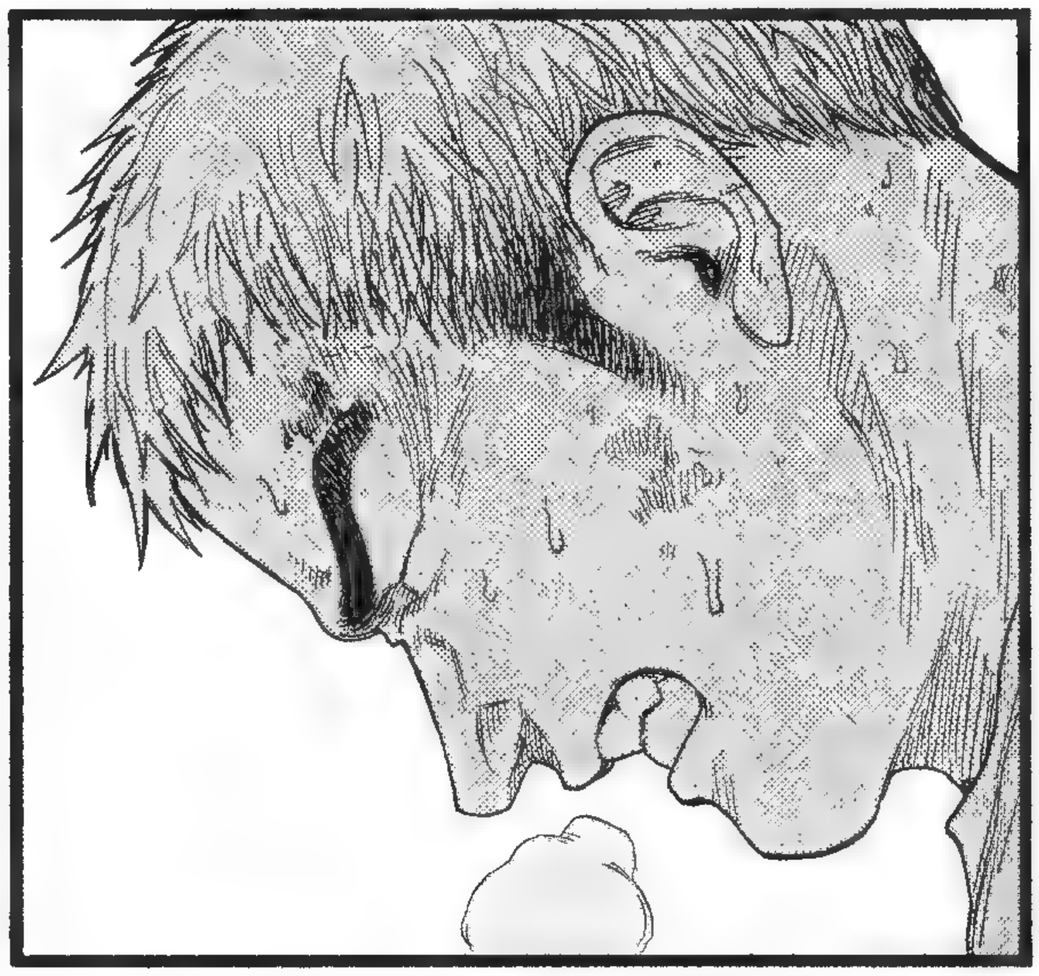
YOU HAVE TO TELL ME...!

ANTI-DEMI SPECIAL FORCES

NA-KANO ...


IT'S OVER ...





HUH ?
OVER THERE ...

NAGAI'S CALLING US FROM OVER THERE.

!

!

?

ANTI-BIOHAZARD SPECIALIST

!

HOW CAN YOU TELL?!

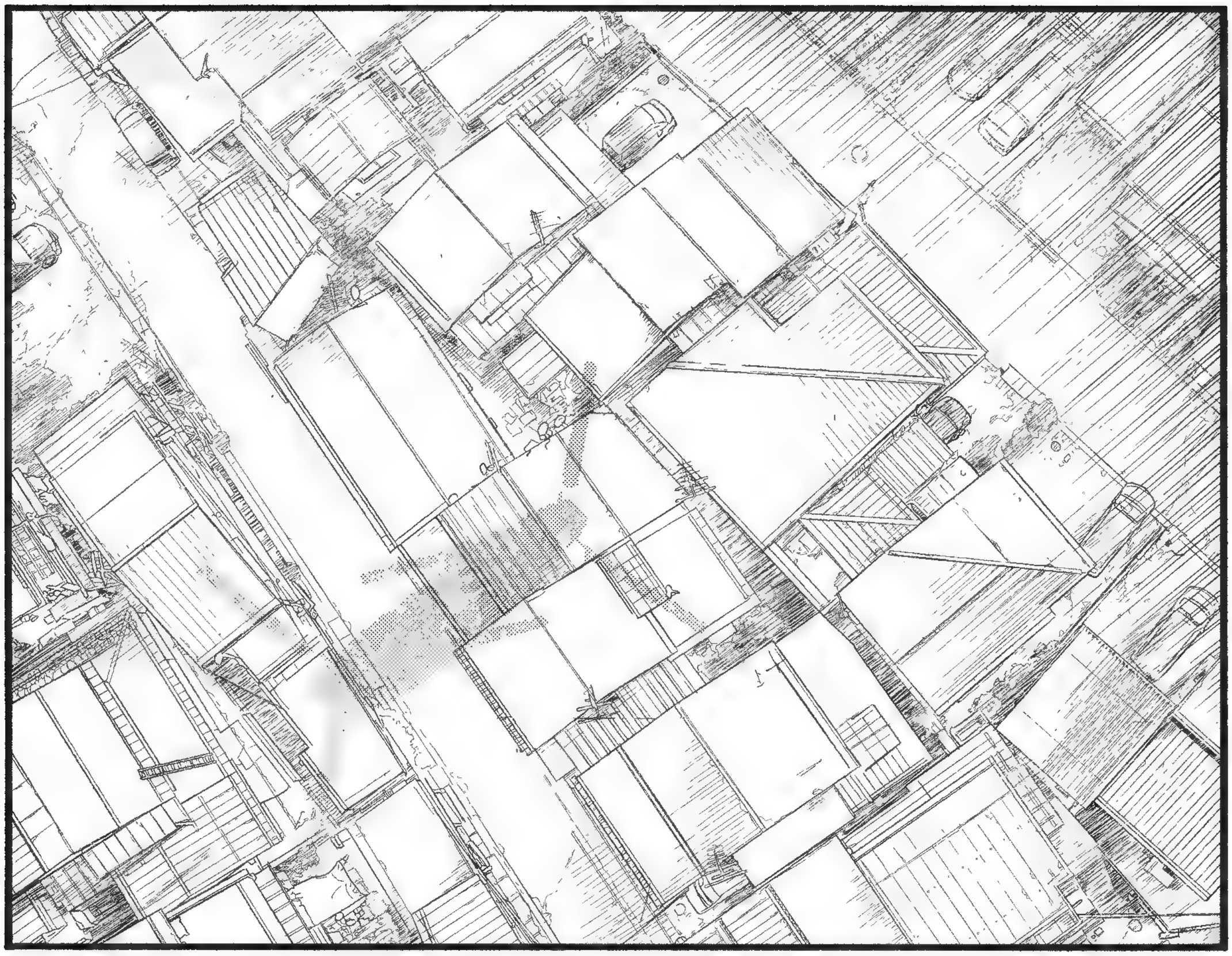
I JUST CAN.

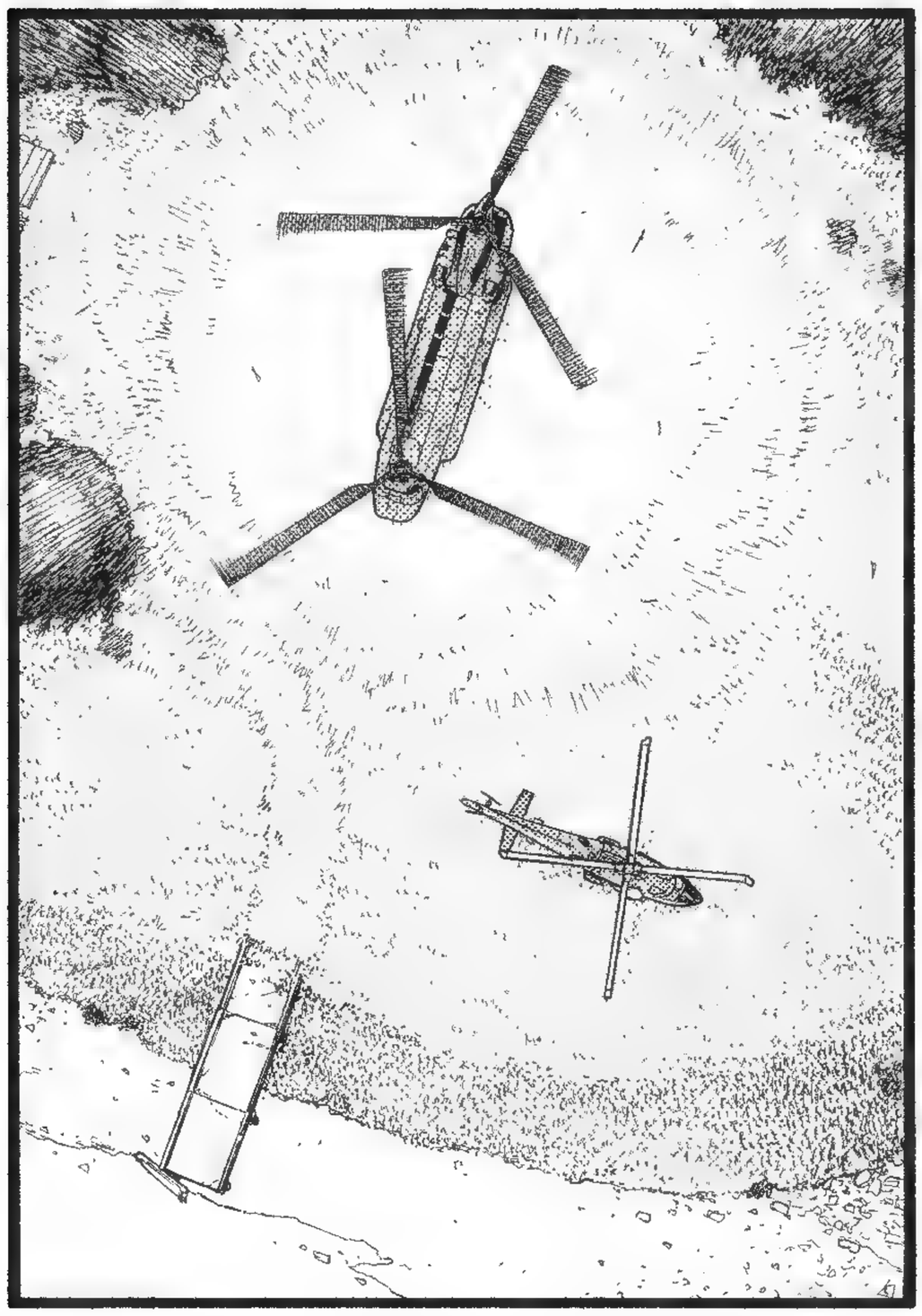
STRIKE BACK

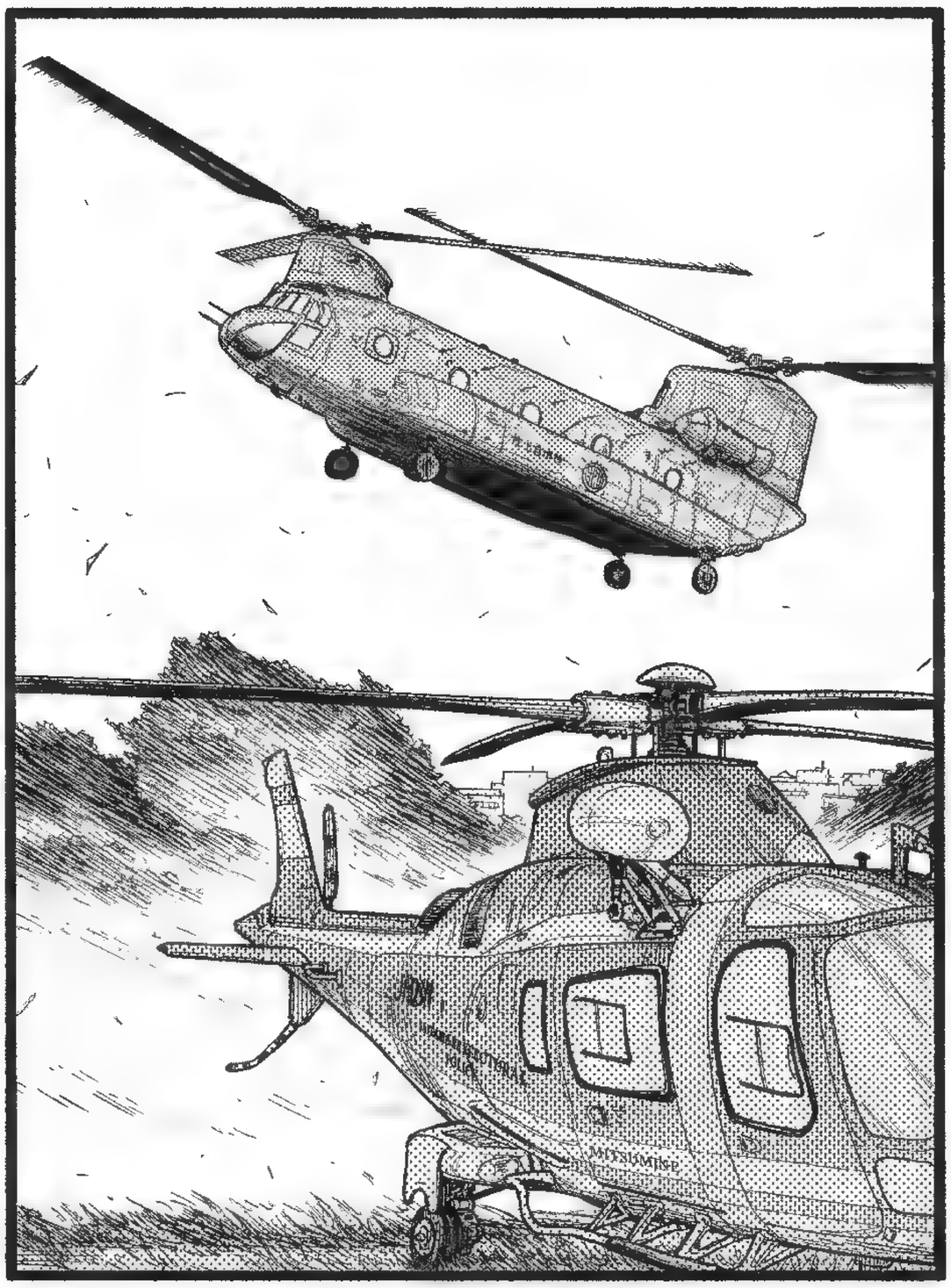
ON THE VERY FIRST DAY, TOO.

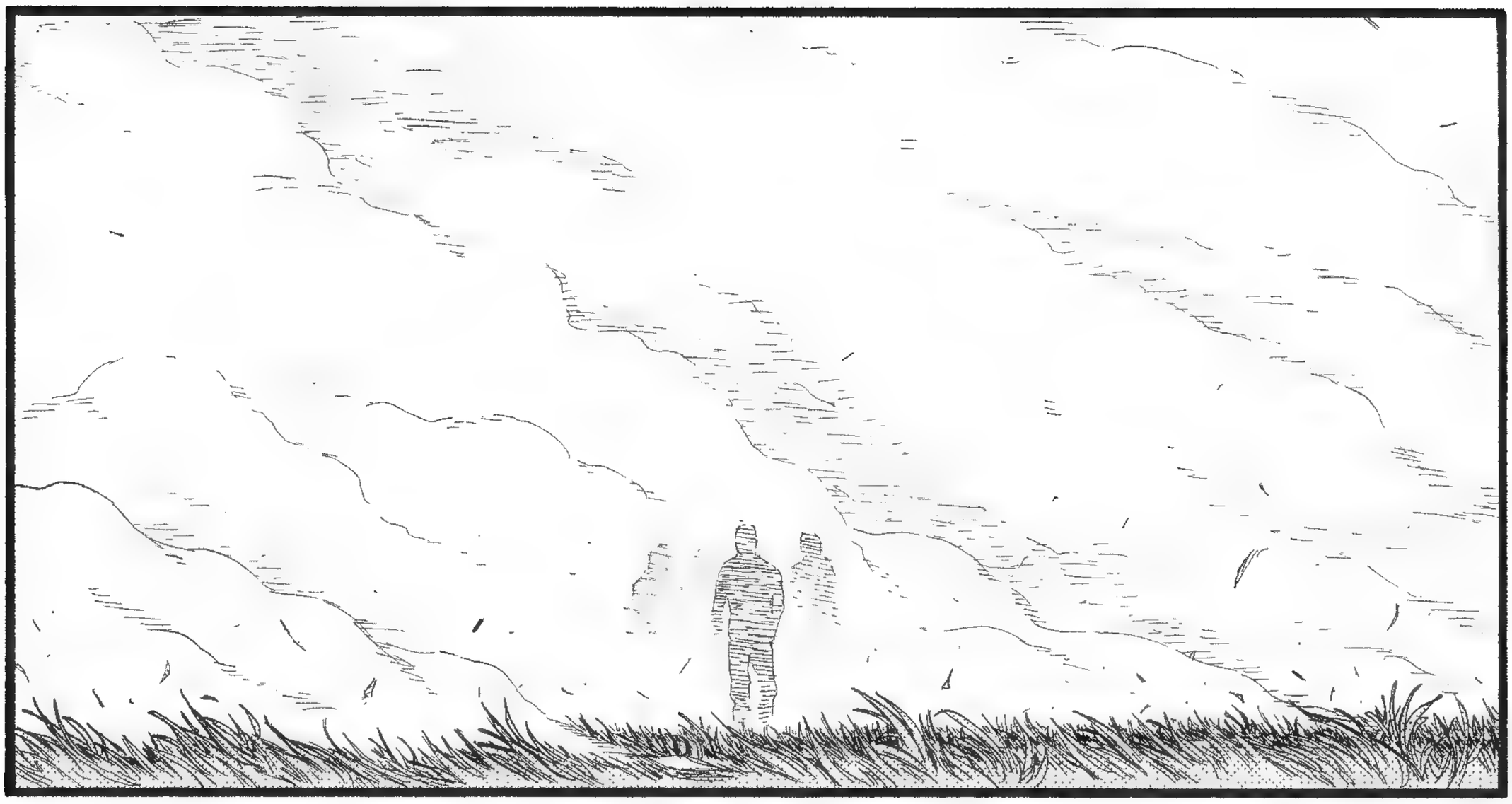
THAT'S HOW I FOUND NAGAI

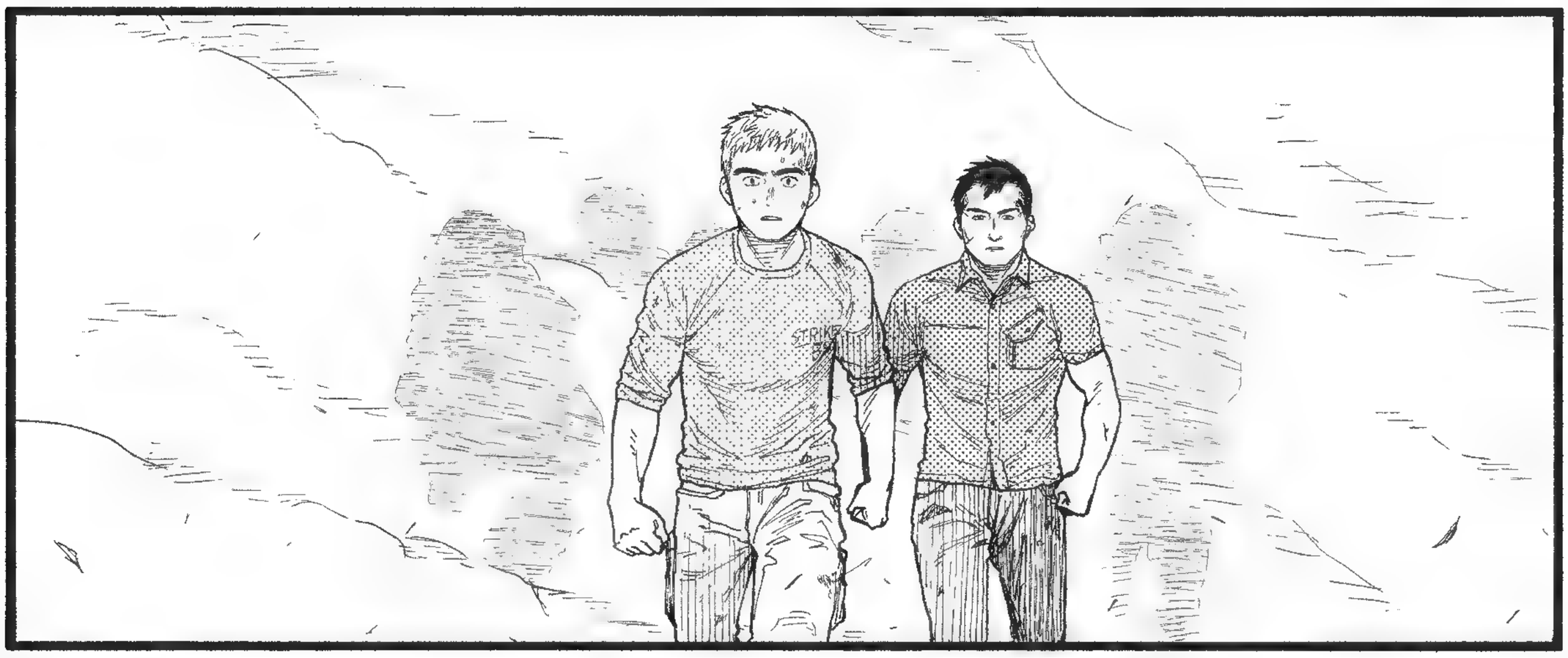
CALL THE CHOP-PER!

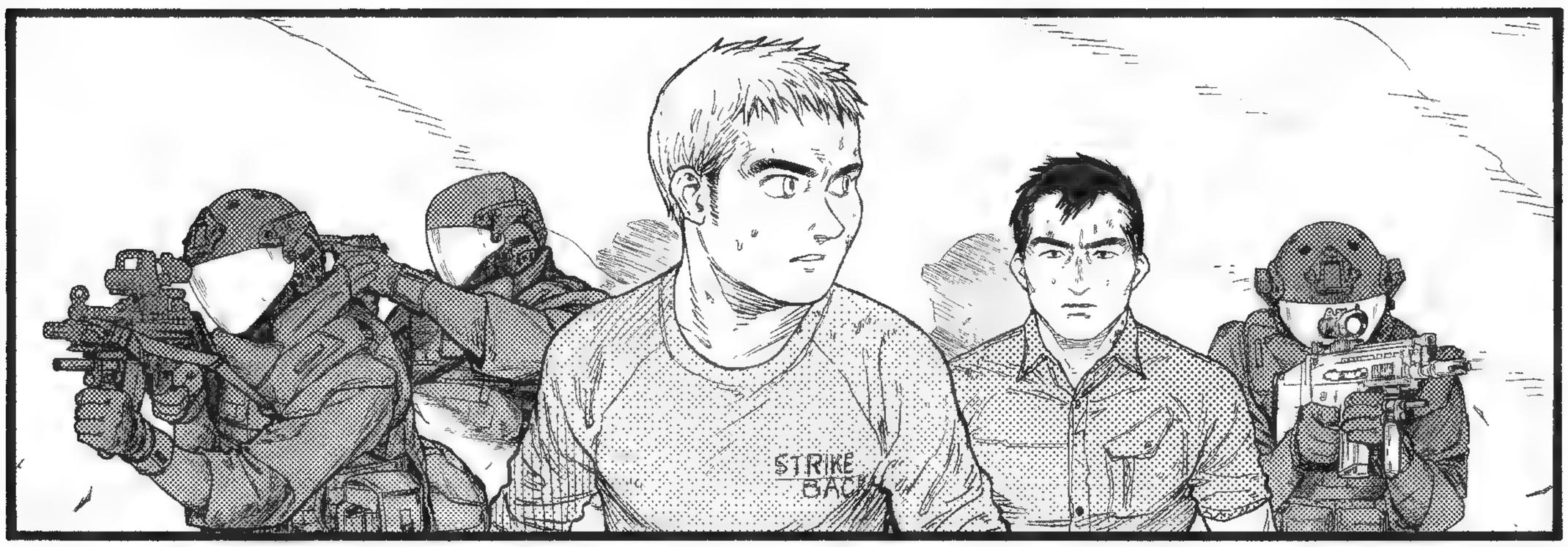









STRIKE
BACK


AROUND HERE.

NAGAAAAI!!

I DON'T SEE ANYONE ...

STAY ALERT.

SATO'S HELI-COPTER SPOT-TED.

WHERE ARE YOU?!

NAGAI!!

HAAH

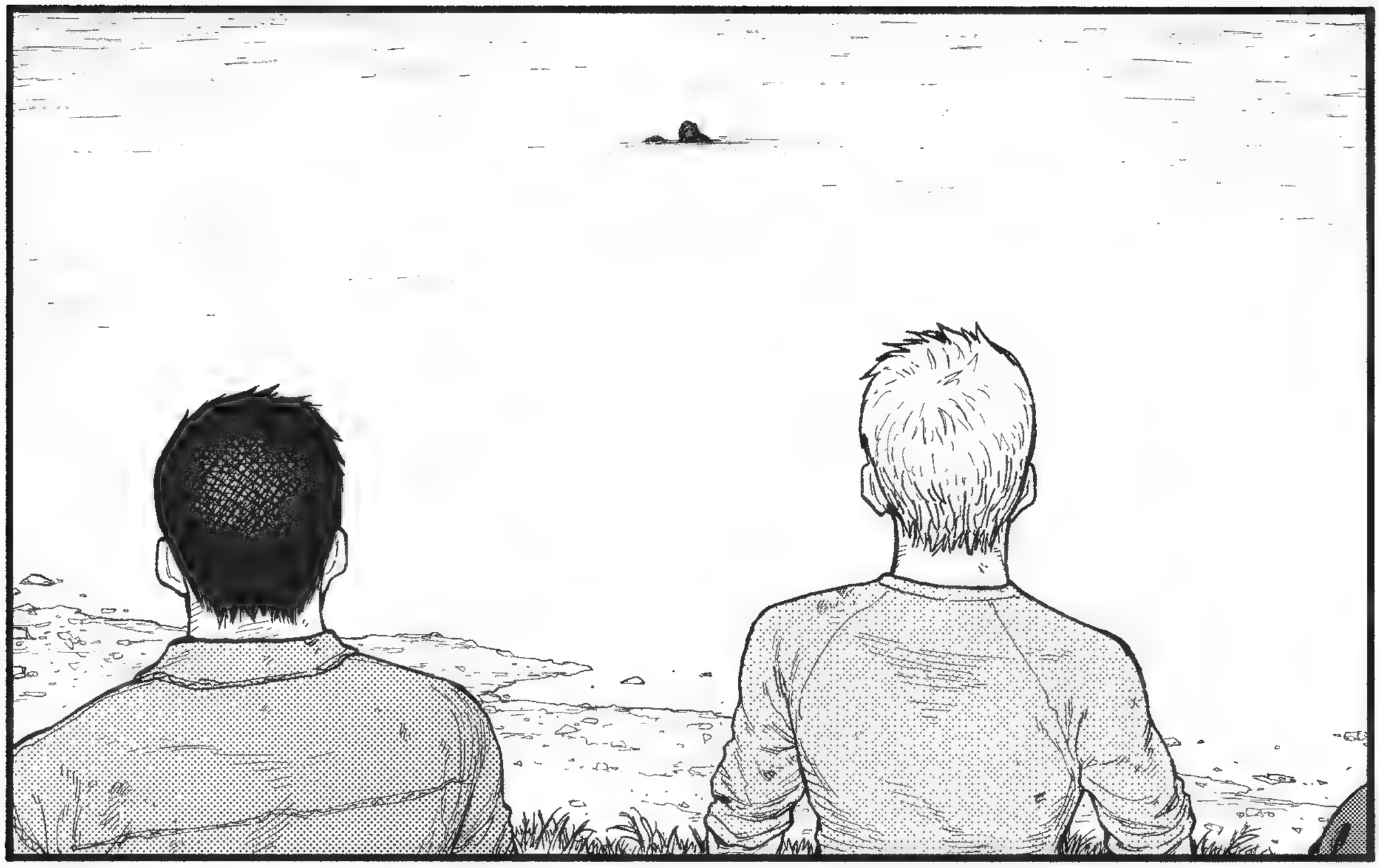
HAAH

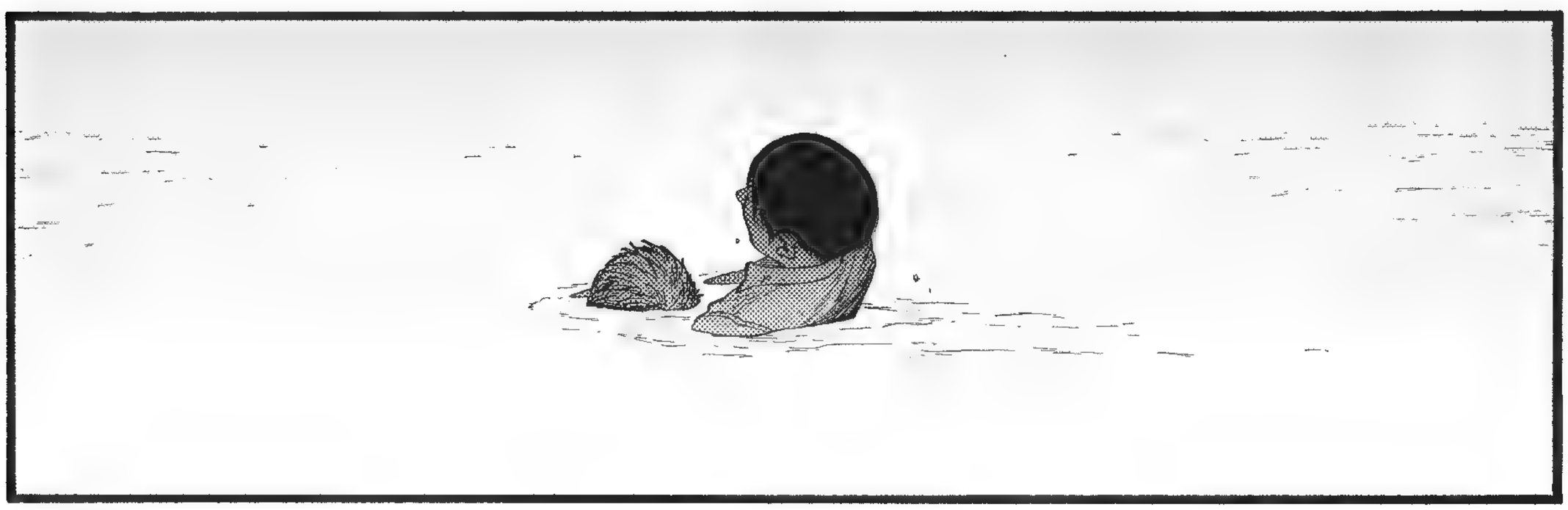
4"

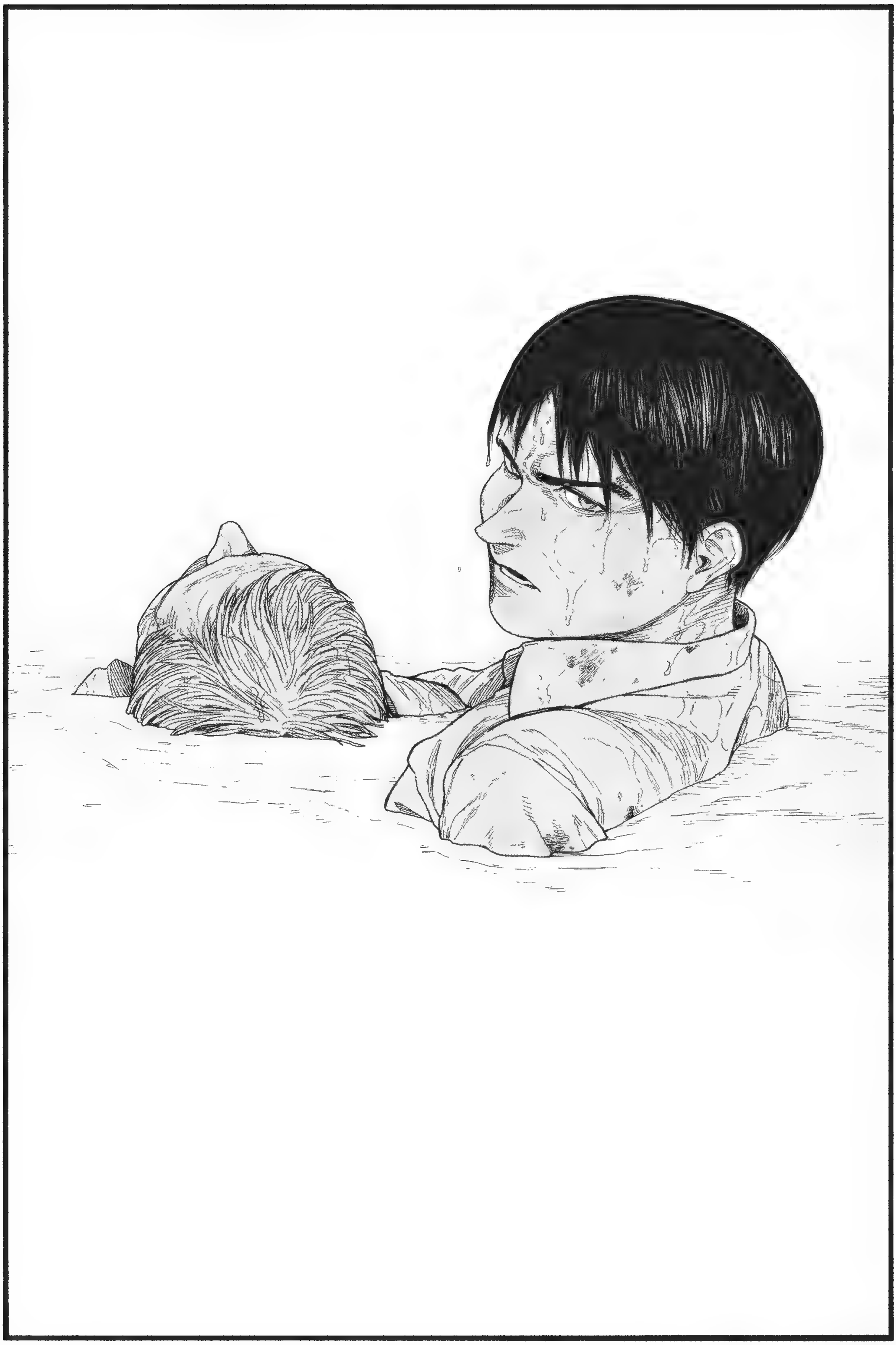
11°

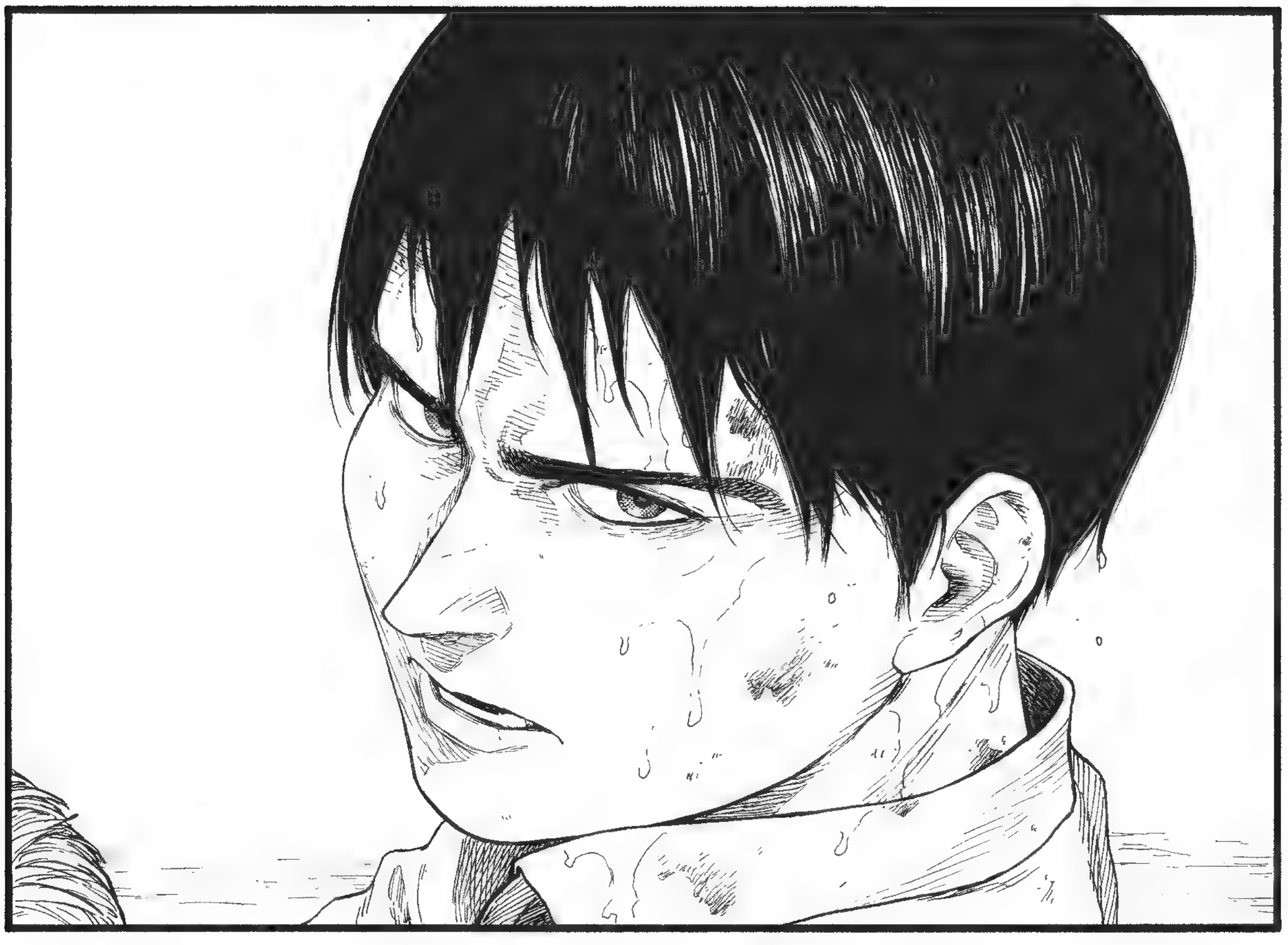
SPLASH

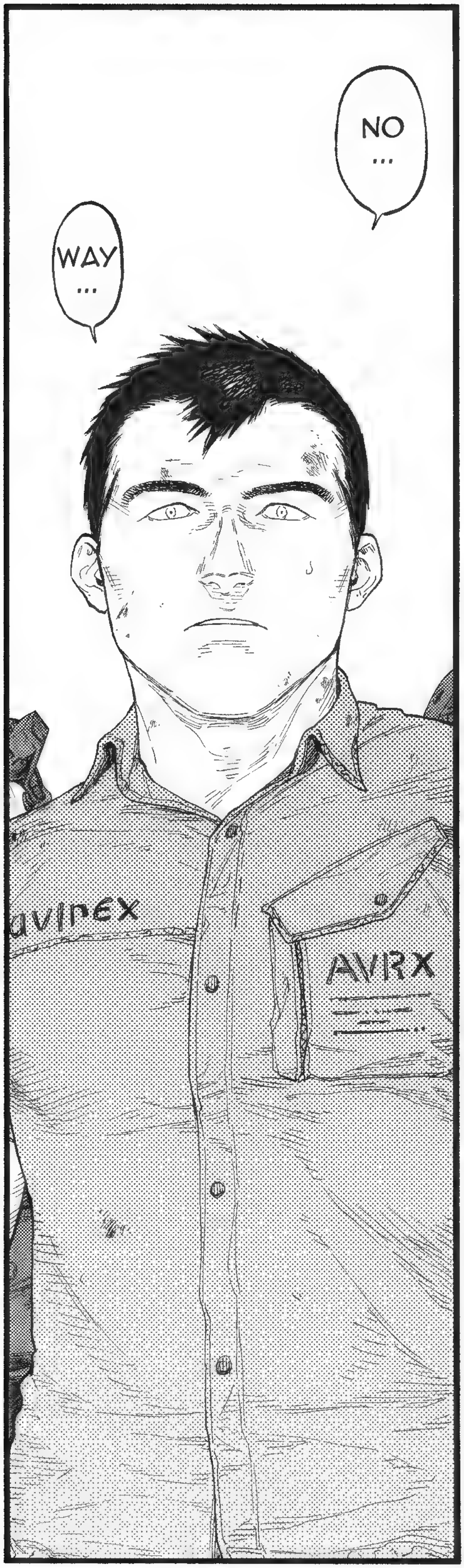
!










NO
...
WAY
...
avirex
AVRX

NA-
GAI.

READY
TRAN-
QUILIZ-
ERS.

WE'RE
TAKING
SATO
IN.

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

I DON'T THINK HE'S PLAYACTING.

FROM WHAT I CAN SEE AND FEEL...

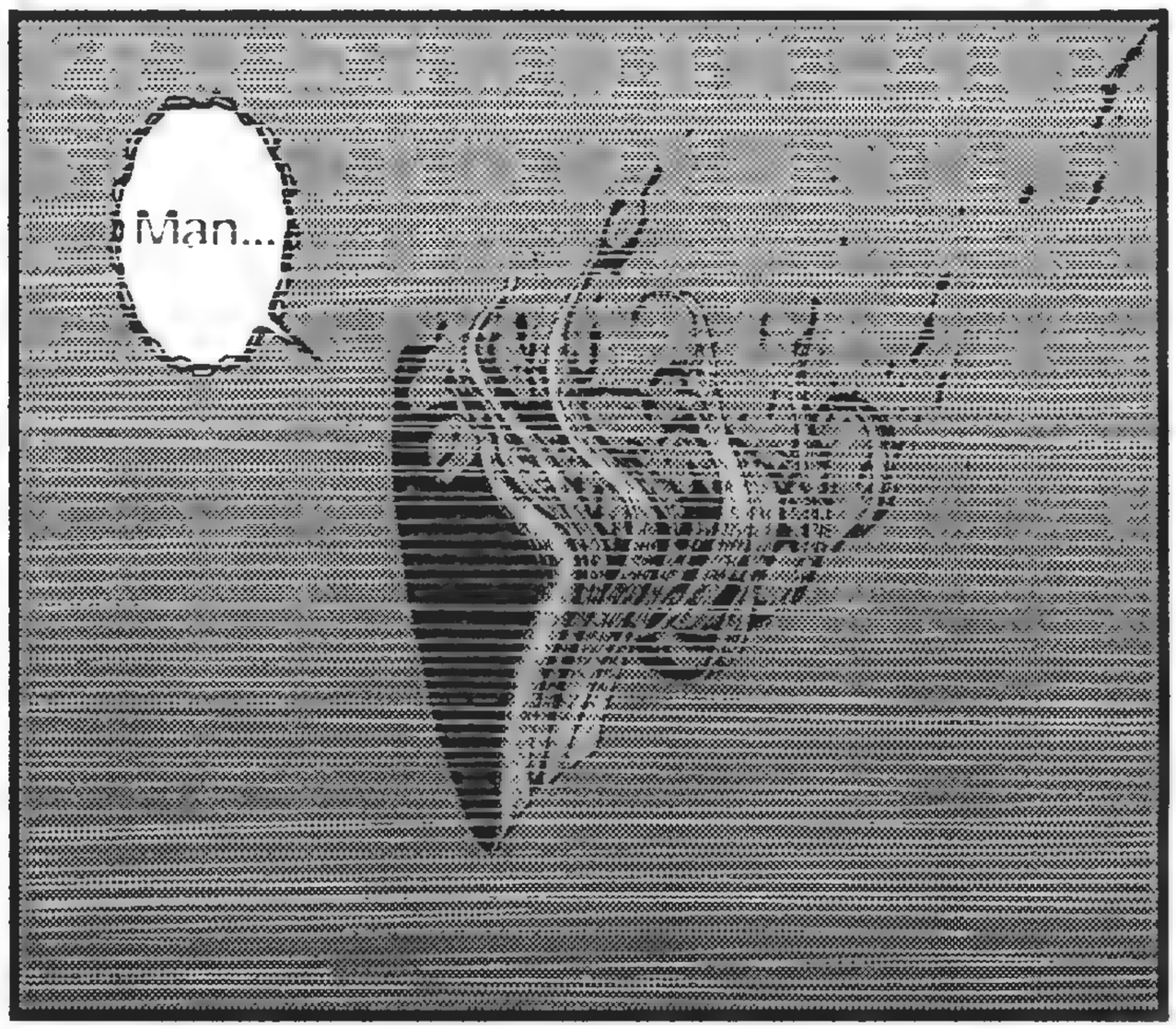
HAAH

HAAH

HE'S REALLY OUT.

Heh

HAAH
HAAH
HAAH


Man...

NOW THAT WAS FUN.

AHH.

NOW I GET IT.

OUR LIVES ARE NEVER ON THE LINE.

NO MATTER HOW EXTREME THE SITU-ATION,

WE CAN DO THINGS NORMAL PEOPLE CAN'T DO,

GO PLACES THEY CAN'T GO.

THINGS WE'VE NEVER EVEN DREAMED OF BECOME POSSIBLE,

AND WE'VE ACTUALLY DONE SOME OF THEM.

THERE'S A CER-TAIN...

JOY IN THAT.

BUT THIS ISN'T A GAME.

BUT THE IDEA OF DOING SOME-THING JUST FOR FUN...

I HATE IT. I REALLY DO.

SOME-TIMES I MIGHT SKIP SCHOOL

OR TAKE THE LONG WAY HOME...

EVERY-
THING I'VE
DONE
DURING
ALL OF
THIS,

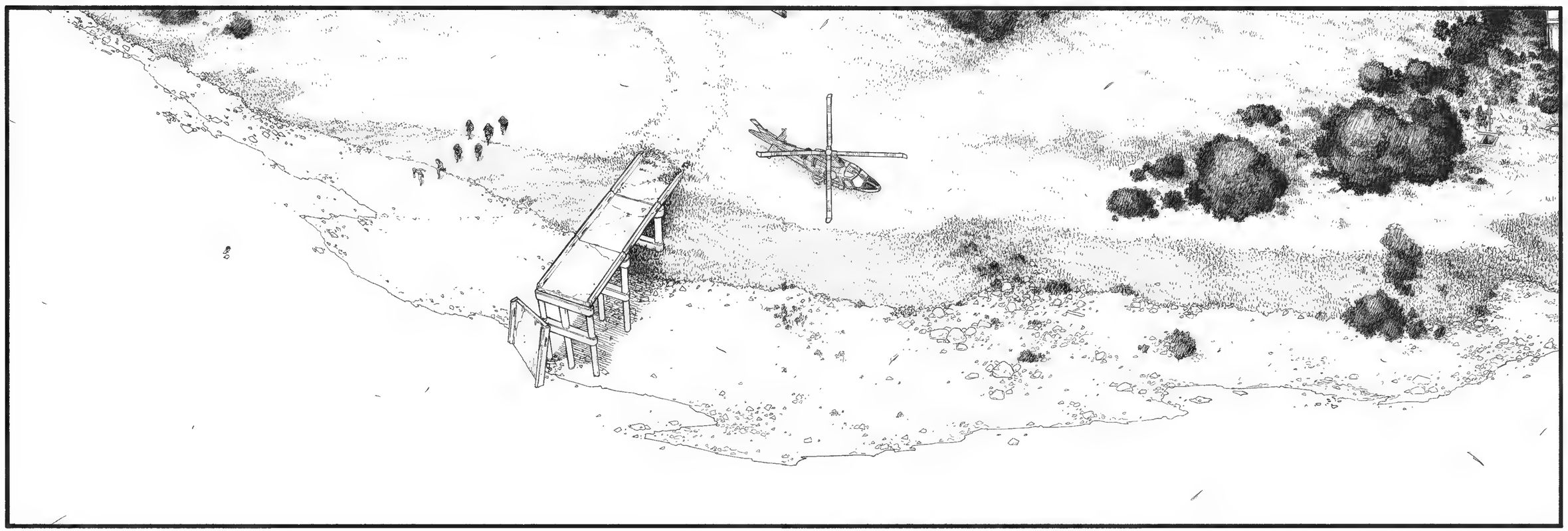
ALL THE
SCHOOL-
WORK
I DID,

EVEN MY
GOAL OF
BECOMING
A
DOCTOR.

I
TAKE IT
ALL SE-
RIOUSLY.

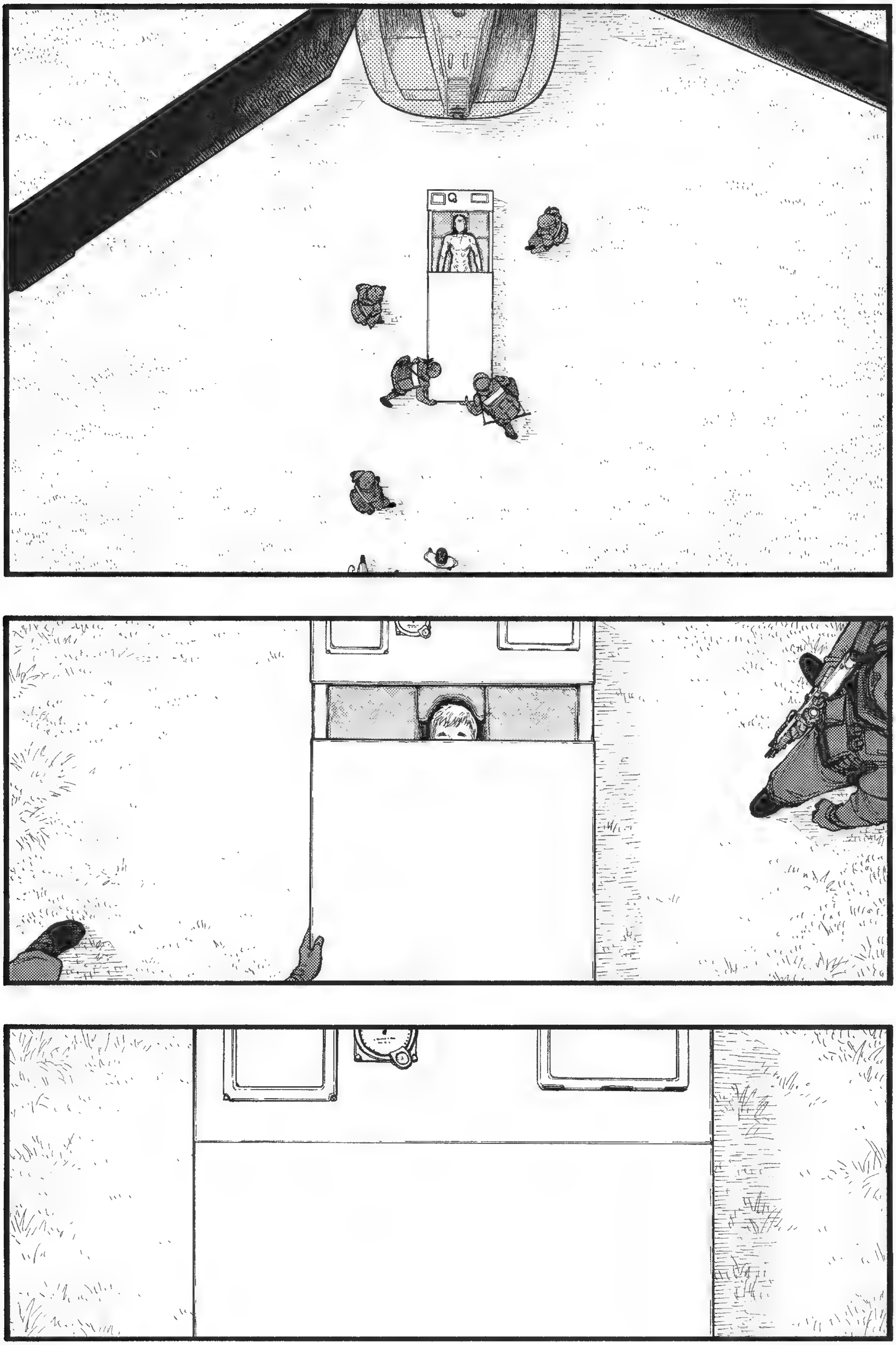
I TAKE MY LIFE SERI-OUSLY.

THIS ISN'T A GODDAMN JOKE.



9/16
Iruma
City,
Saitama
Prefec-
ture

Sato
taken
into
custody



THIS IS AN EXPERI-MENTAL "CASKET"

FOR TRANS-PORTING DEMI-HUMANS.

WE'VE CON-DUCTED A THOROUGH BODY SEARCH.

HE HAD NOTHING CON-CEALED ON HIS PERSON.

YOU CAN ALSO ADJUST THE TRAN-QUILIZER DOSE EXTER-NALLY.

IT'S MADE OF A SPECIAL ALLOY,

AND ALLOWS FOR ZERO MOVE-MENT.

HE CAN'T DO A THING.

SO LONG AS HE'S IN HERE,

WHAT'LL YOU DO NOW?

MR. AKI-YAMA.

I WANT TO SEE MY FAMILY.

YEAH ...

SO IT'S OVER ...

SHE MUST BE WOR-RIED.

THAT I WAS GOING TO MEET SATO.

I NEVER TOLD MY WIFE

AH, YEAH ...

MAN, HOW MANY DAYS OF WORK HAVE I MISSED?

THE BOSS IS GONNA BE PISSED.

I WANT TO GIVE HER A PROPER APOLOGY.

I SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO YOU TOO, NAKANO.

HUH?

IT'S FINE, REALLY.

ASKING YOU FOR HELP WITH SOMETHING THIS INSANE...

IF ANYTHING EVER COMES UP,

YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON ME.

SAME TO YOU.

STRIKE BACK

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING SATO?

EX-CUSE ME.

...

NO.

IT'S FINE.

AND ...

HOW WILL YOU HOLD HIM,

AND CON-TROL HIM,

AND ANY-WAY.

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW.

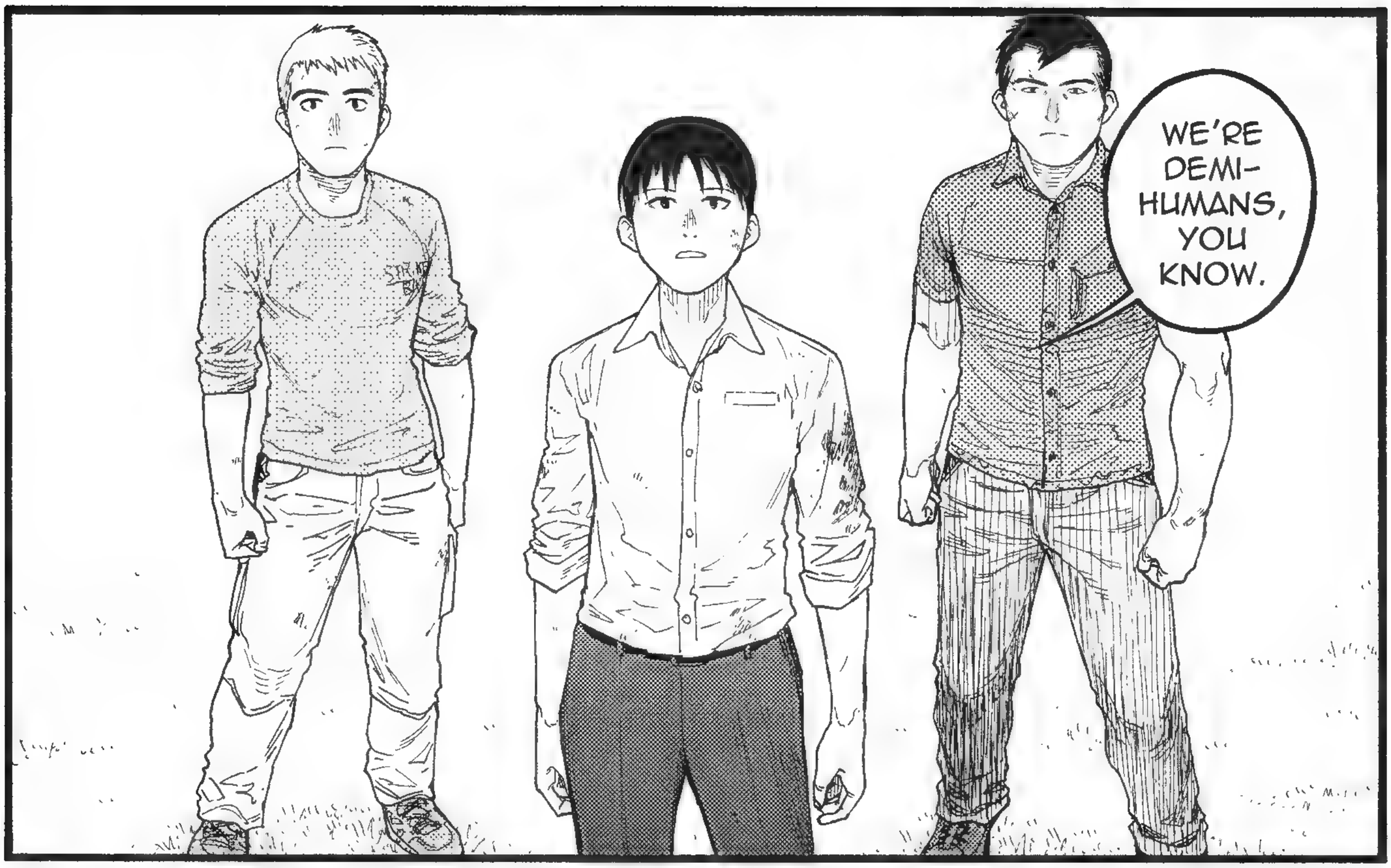
GET BACK.

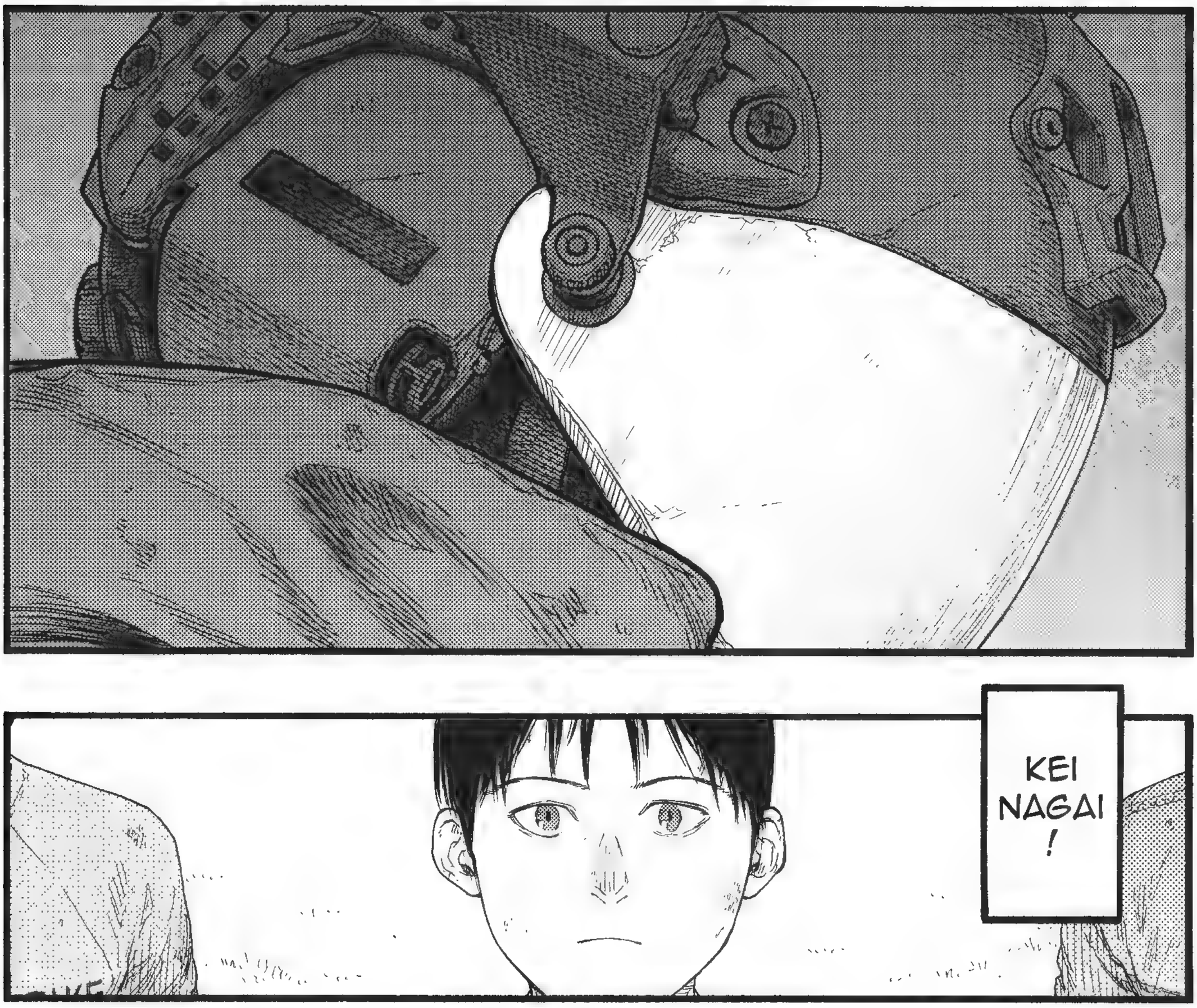
FORCES

IT'S DAN-GER-OUS.

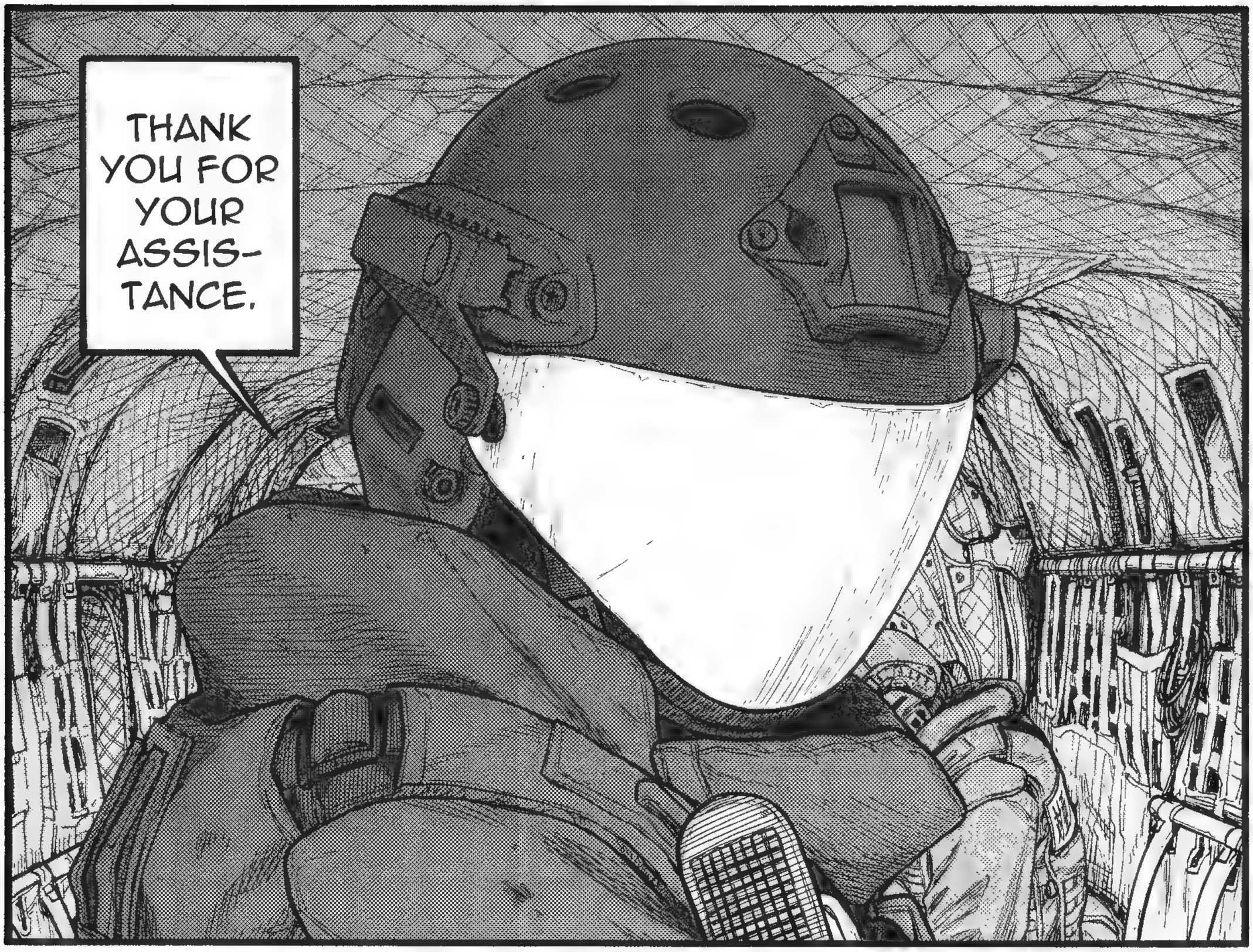
I TRUST YOU GUYS.

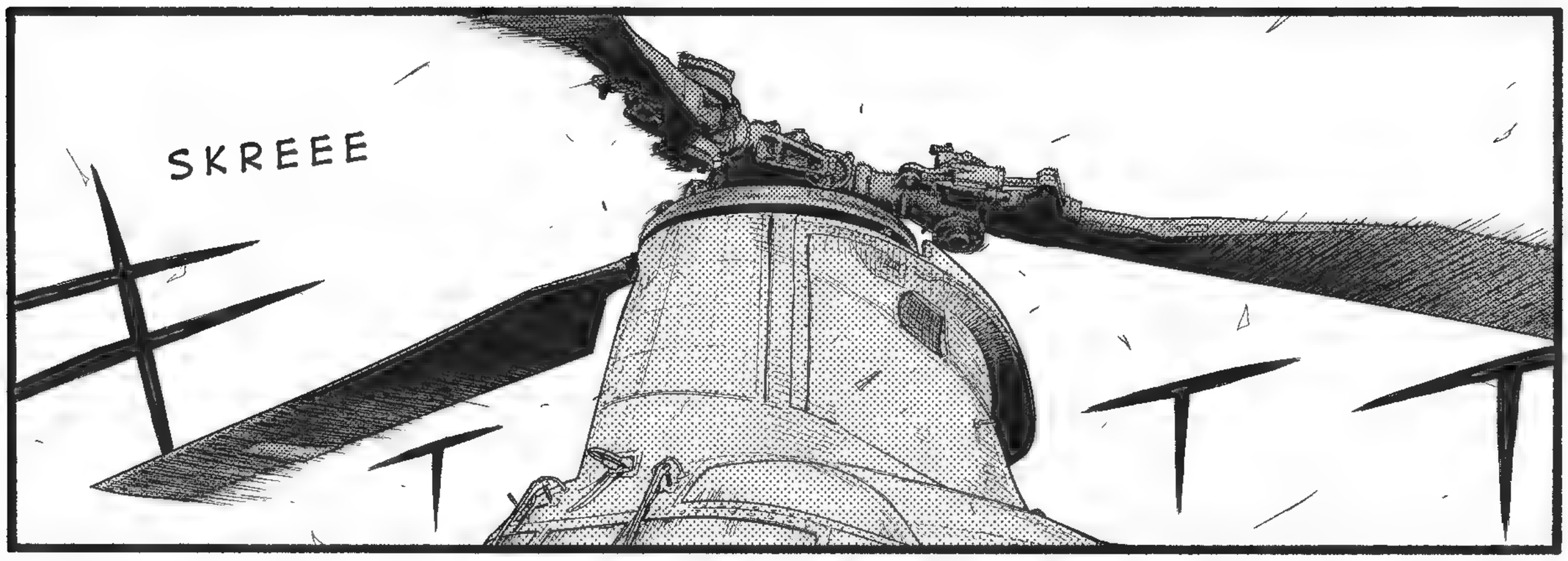
WE'RE TAKING OFF.

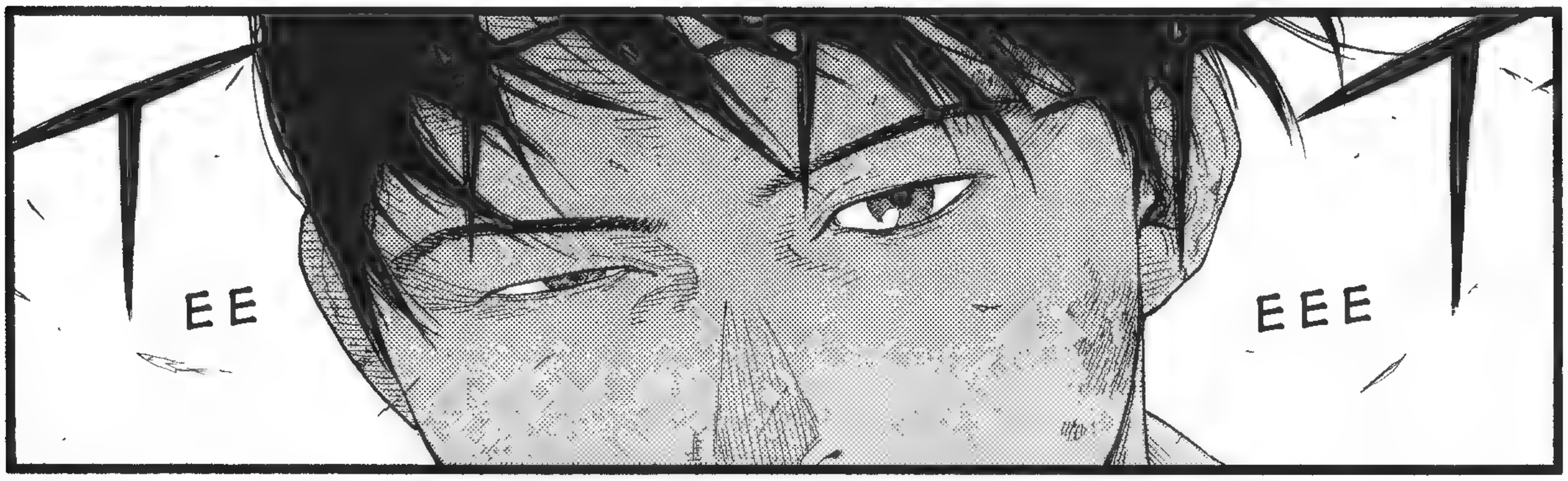

WE'RE DEMI-HUMANS, YOU KNOW.



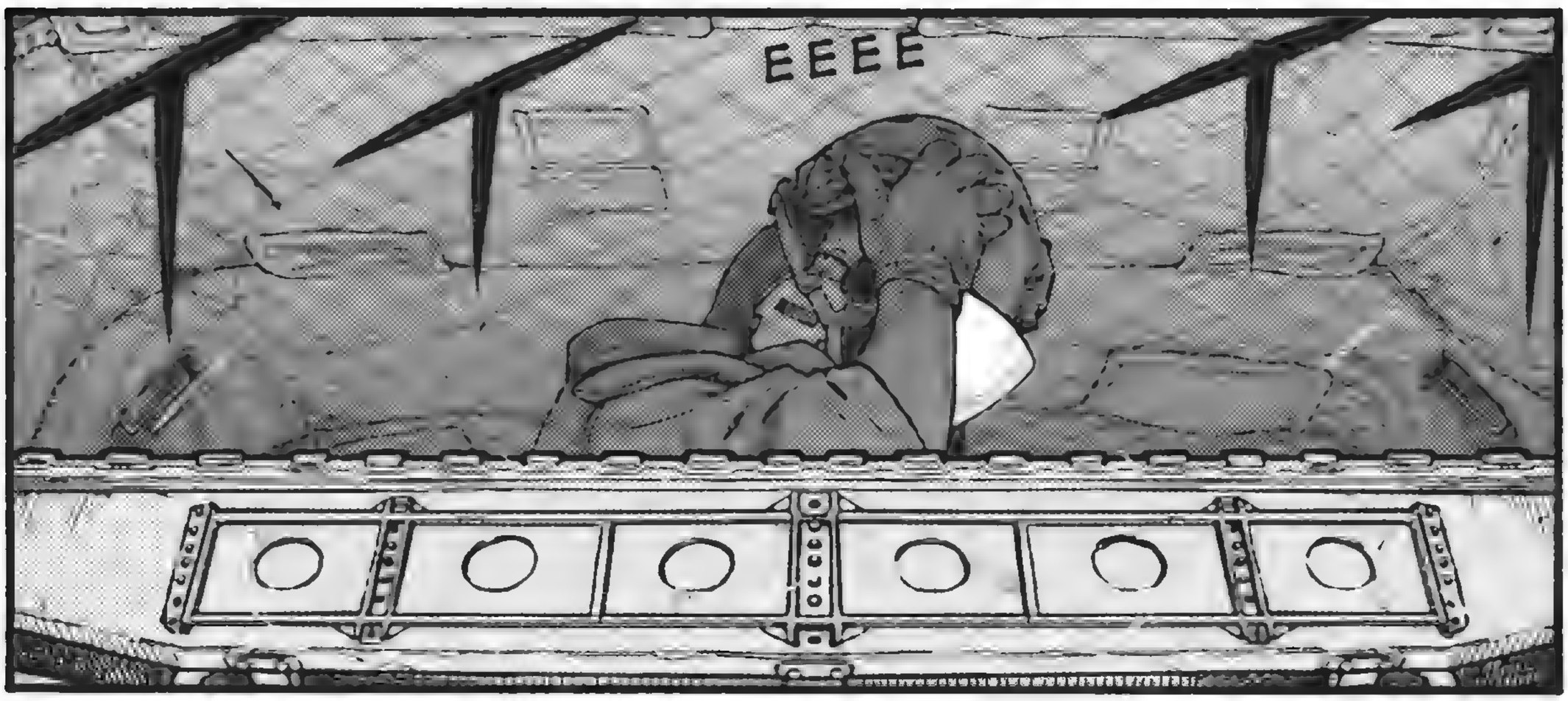
KEI NAGAI!


THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSIS-TANCE.


SKREEE


EE
EEE

EEEEE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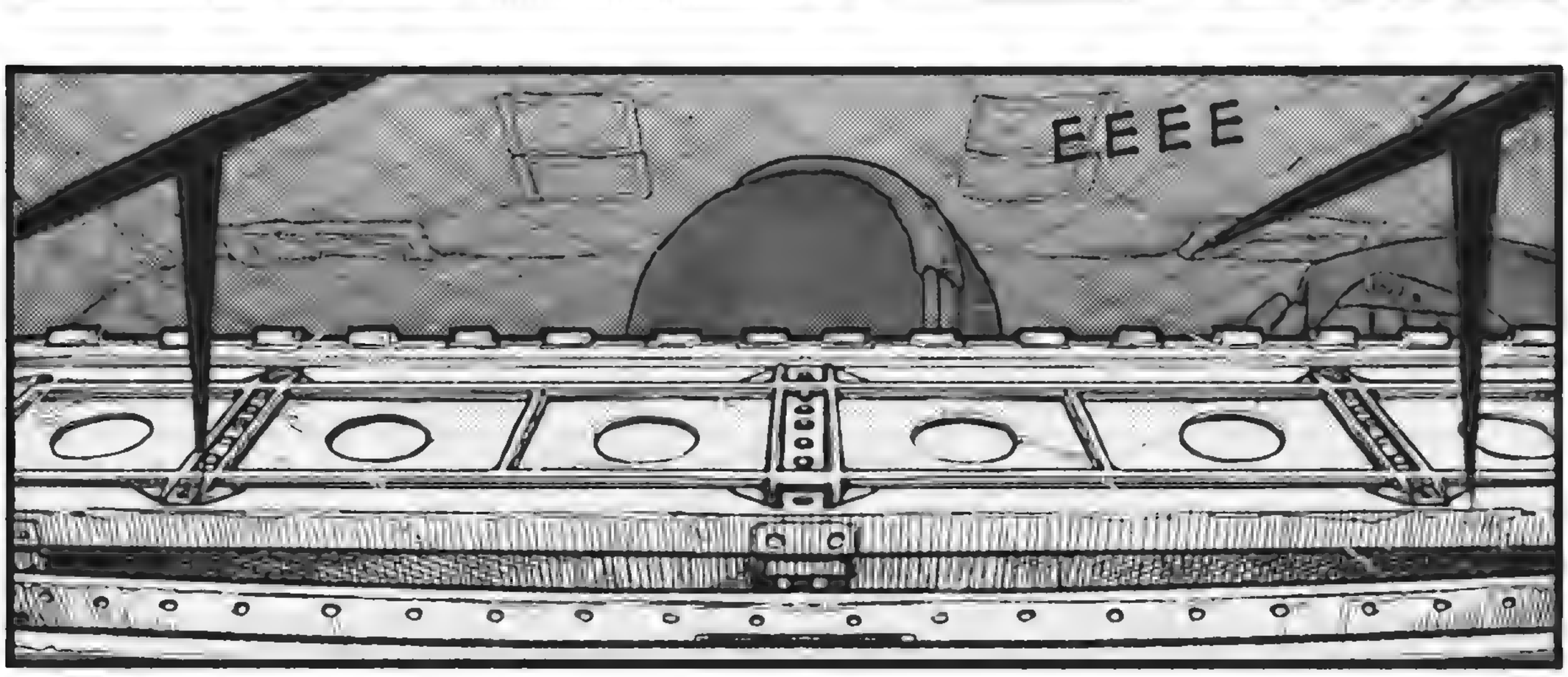
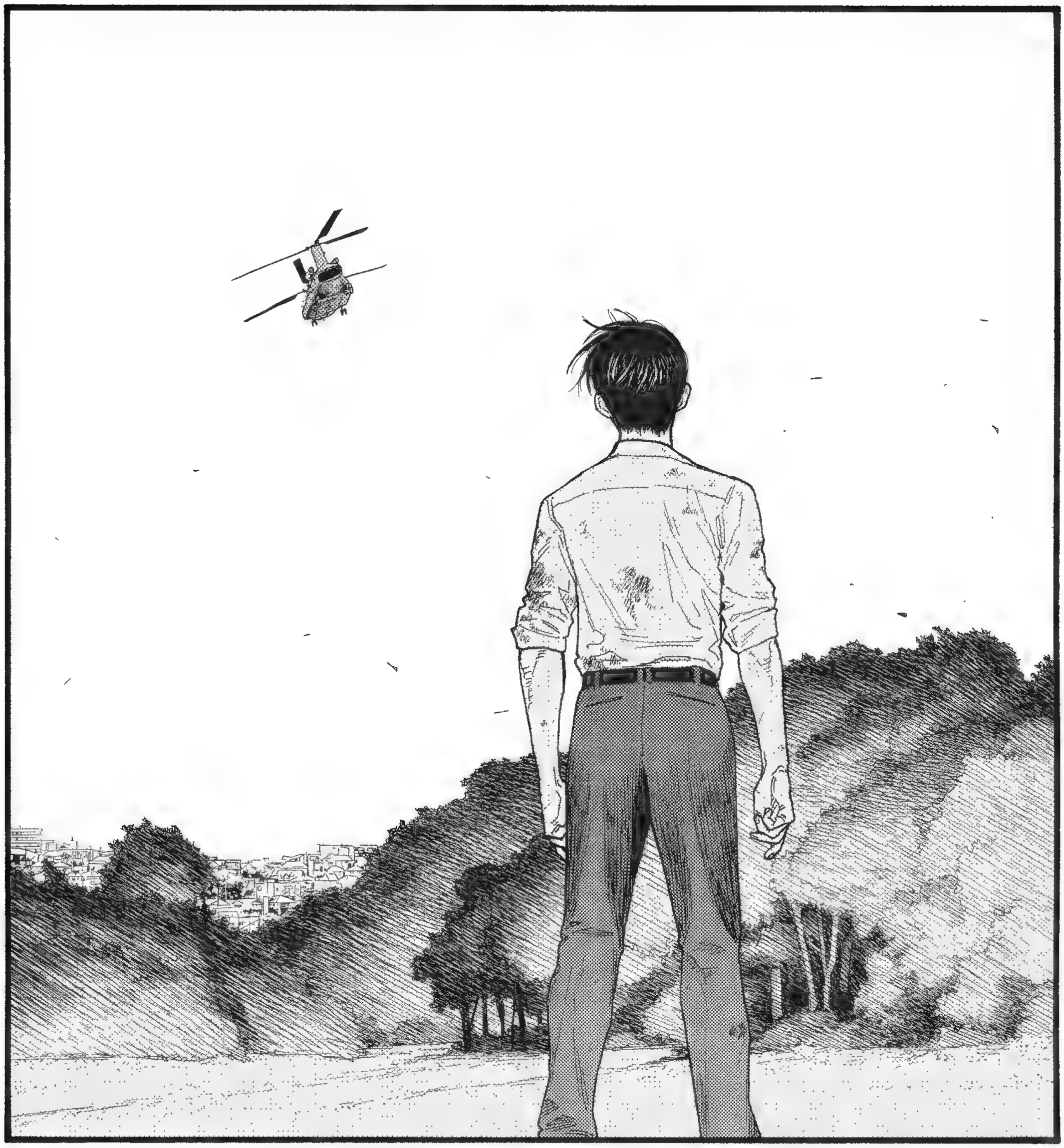
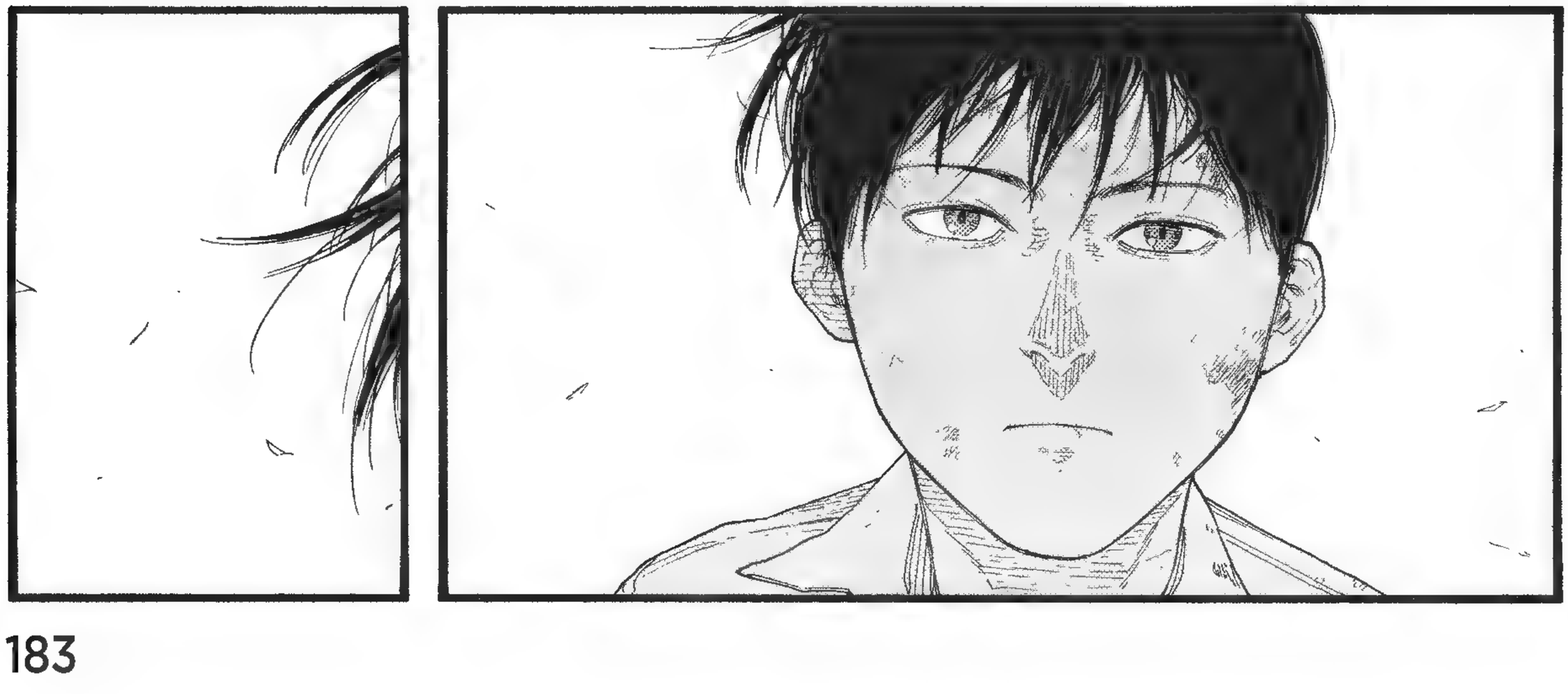

EEEE





THOUGHT TO BE BEHIND THE TERROR-IST—

RESPON-SIBLE FOR THOU-SANDS OF KNOWN DEATHS —

THIS JUST IN.

WE'VE RECEIVED WORD OF SATO'S CAPTURE —

THE DEMI-HUMAN KNOWN AS "SATO" HAS BEEN CAPTURED.

THE REMAINS OF THE DEMI-HUMAN CONTROL COMMIS-SION'S YU TOSAKI—

NEWS

ACCORD-ING TO SAITAMA POLICE,

EX-TRA!

EXT —

A SEPARATE SPECIAL HOLDING FACILITY FROM SATO—

INSIDE THIS PRISON VAN ARE THREE DEMI-HUMANS,

WE'RE LIVE ON THE SCENE.

INCLUDING TAKAHASHI, WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY PART OF THE TERRORIST—

MAN'S REMAINS FOUND IN IRUMA CITY GYMNASIUM

The remains of an unidentified man were found in the Iruma City Gymnasium, a public sports facility located in Toyooka, Iruma in Saitama Prefecture.

CREDIBI

DIET MEMBER HIMEKO TACHIBANA, WHO SPEARHEADED THE NEW DEMI-HUMAN CONTROL BILL,

WAS DISCOVERED TO BE A DEMI-HUMAN—

TANAKA REMA
AT LARGE

NEWS

IN ORDER TO RECONSIDER THE CONTENT OF THE BILL,

SCHOOLS HAVE REOPENED TODAY IN IRUMA CITY—

IT HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY SCRAPPED—

UNPRECEDEN

SWEEPING INQUIRY INTO PARTICIPATING CORPORATIONS

FORCE SAFETY

Secretary Li Te

FORMER ARMY MINISTER ARRESTED

EVIDENCE OF WRONG-DOING WITHIN THE DEMI-HUMAN CONTROL COMMIS-SION HAS BEEN RELEASED.

THIS PROVES MR. TOSAKI'S ALLEGA-TIONS TO BE TRUE, AND—

DIET B
REPA

FORMER COLONEL KOUMA HAS REMAINED SILENT—

BLACK-CLAD FIGURES REPORT-EDLY SEEN INSIDE IRUMA BASE AT THE TIME,

RE-GARD-ING THE GROUP OF ARMED,

HUMAN RIGHT

WE SAW MUCH RUMOR AND SPECULA-TION AS THE SATO INCIDENT UNFOLDED —

ONE WONDERS WHAT THIS NEW LAW WILL LOOK LIKE—

OUR CUR-RENT DEMI-HUMAN LAWS WERE CREATED WITHOUT SUFFICIENT DEBATE.

DUE TO THE LACK OF CASES,

MULTIPLE BODIES THAT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN RIPPED APART—

INVESTIGATING THE RUMORS

BLACK MONSTERS?!

NUMER-OUS EYE-WITNESS REPORTS FROM IRUMA BASE THAT DAY —

"THEY WEREN'T HUMAN BEINGS."

"THEY WERE MON-STERS."

IF ALL THIS MONSTER NONSENSE IS TRUE, HOW COULD THAT POSSI-BLY BE THE CASE IN THIS DAY AND AGE?

FIRST OFF, NOT A SINGLE VIDEO OF ANY OF THIS HAS SURFACED.

IT SEEMS MOST LIKELY THAT THEY DIED AFTER BEING STRUCK BY FLYING DEBRIS FROM AN EXPLOSION—

SEC
TEC
OF
DEM
HUM
!!

Immortal Powers through Immense Psyc

SHARED HAL-LUCINATIONS ARE A FREQUENT OCCURRENCE IN GROUPS THAT HAVE BEEN OVERCOME WITH MASS HYSTERIA—

INDICATE THAT THE DEMI-HUMAN KEI NAGAI ASSISTED IN SATO'S ARREST.

MATE-RIALS LEFT BY MR. TOSAKI

LAST SIGHT-ED IN IRUMA CITY—

HIS WHERE-ABOUTS REMAIN —

I'M SURE

KEI'S PARENTS ARE WORRIED ABOUT HIM.

WE'VE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT

THAT THE DEMI-HUMAN KNOWN AS SATO HAS DIED.

THIS JUST IN.

WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD THAT—

SOME EXPERTS HOLD THAT DEMI-HUMANS CAN INDEED DIE OF OLD AGE—

A PRISON GUARD DISCOVERED HIS BODY EARLY THIS MORNING INSIDE THE FACILITY WHERE HE WAS BEING HELD.

IT SEEMS THAT THE CURTAIN HAS FALLEN ALL TOO SOON ON THESE MYSTERIOUS EVENTS.

EXACTLY WHO OR WHAT WAS SATO?

IF THIS ISN'T A CONSPIRACY, WHAT IS?

...NEXT UP.

IN OTHER NEWS,

HAS INTRODUCED ITS ADORABLE NEW POLAR BEAR CUB TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME!

A ZOO IN SAPPORO

AND A CONTEST TO NAME —

HE REACTED HAPPILY TO THE EXCITED CHEERS,

WHOSE ARDENT RELATION-SHIP HAS LONG BEEN REPORTED—

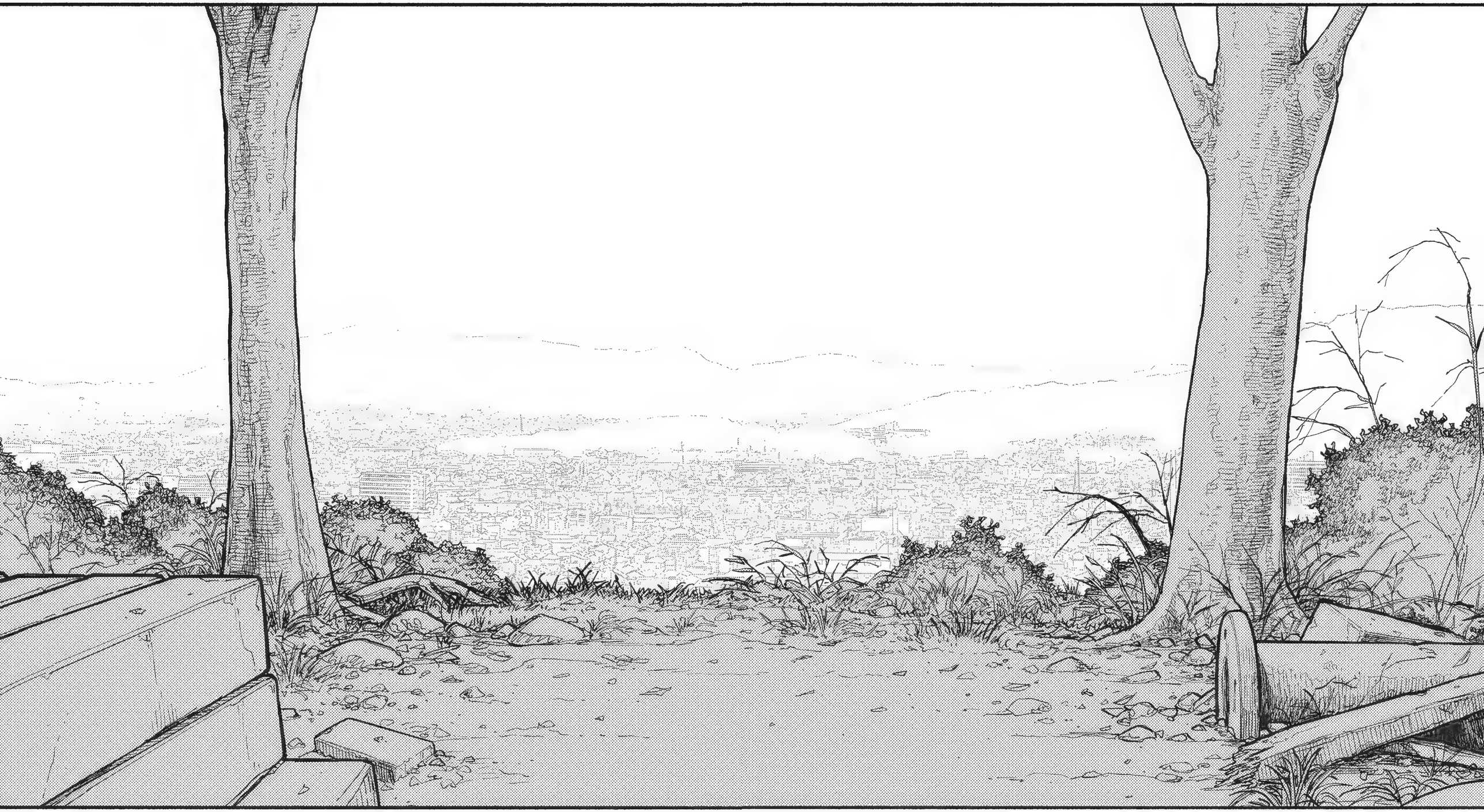
WHICH OPENED IN TOKYO, HAS BECOME WILDLY POPULAR—

AN-OTHER POLITI-CIAN'S VERBAL GAFFE.

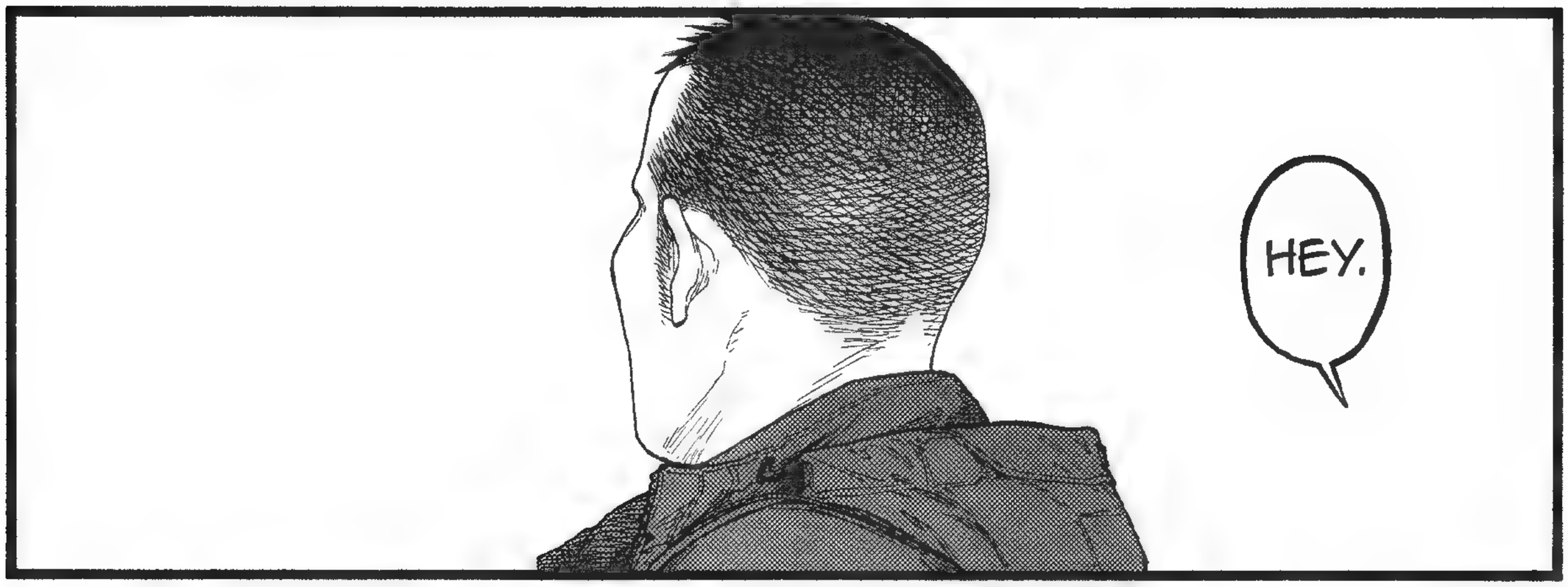
TO-DAY'S NIKKEI INDEX—

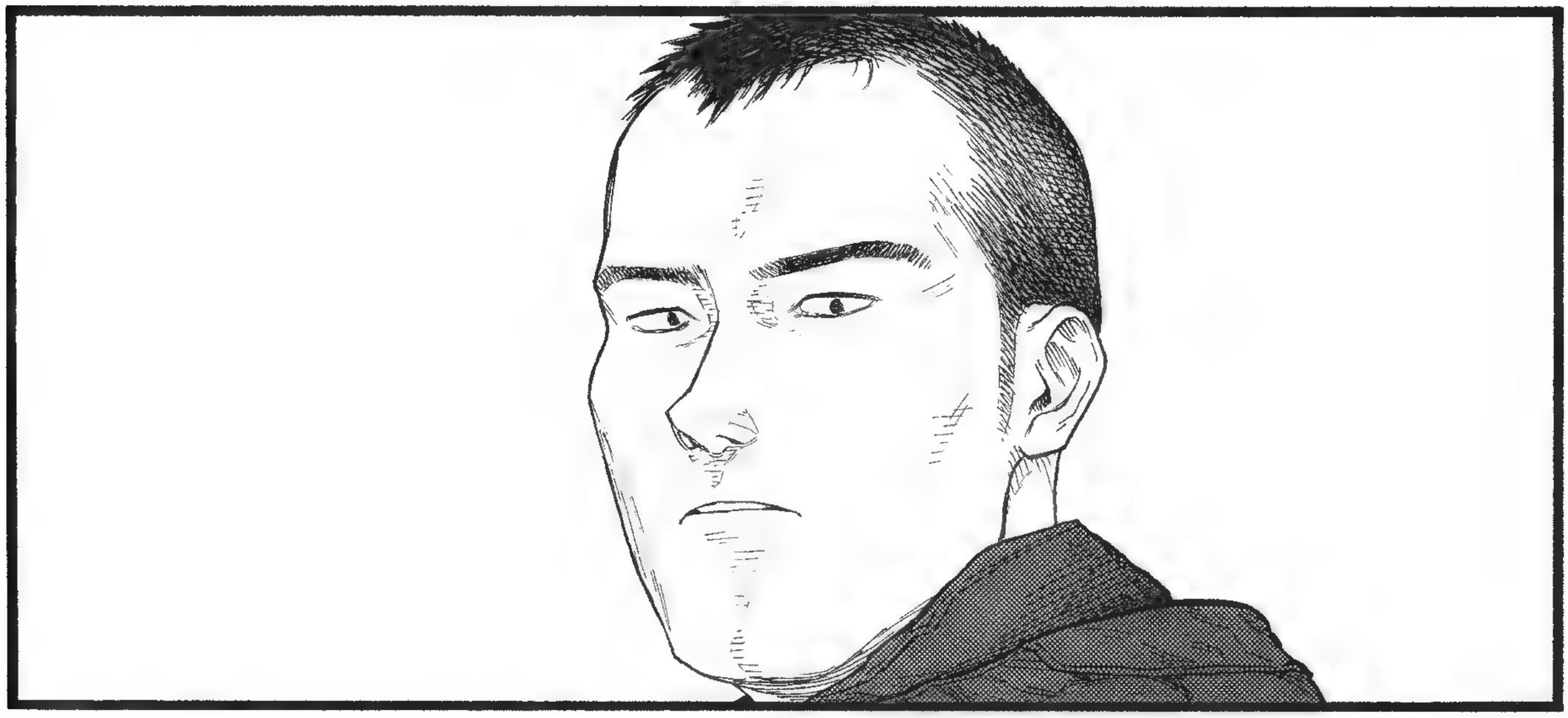
TO-MOR-ROW'S WEATH ER—

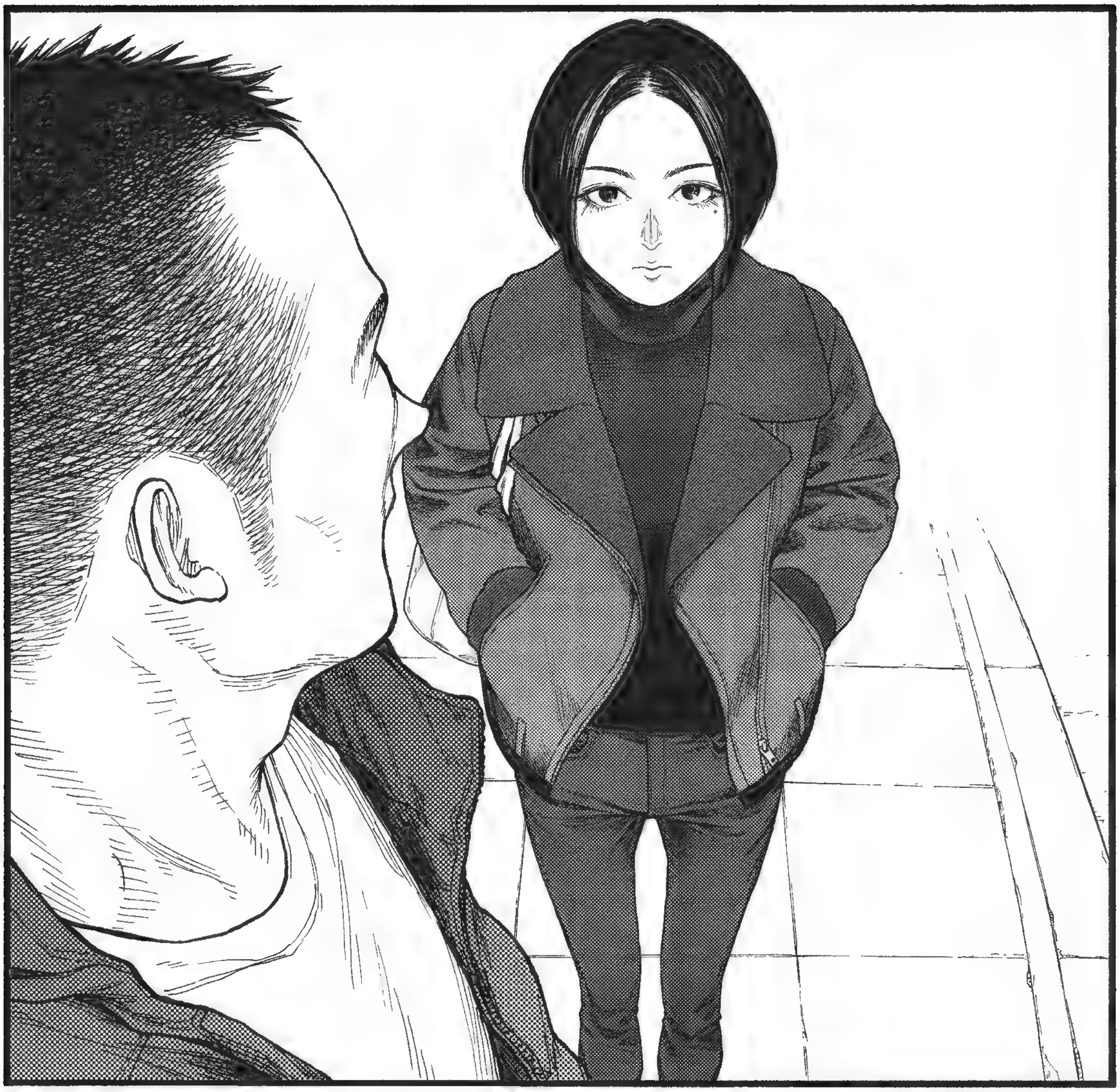
—



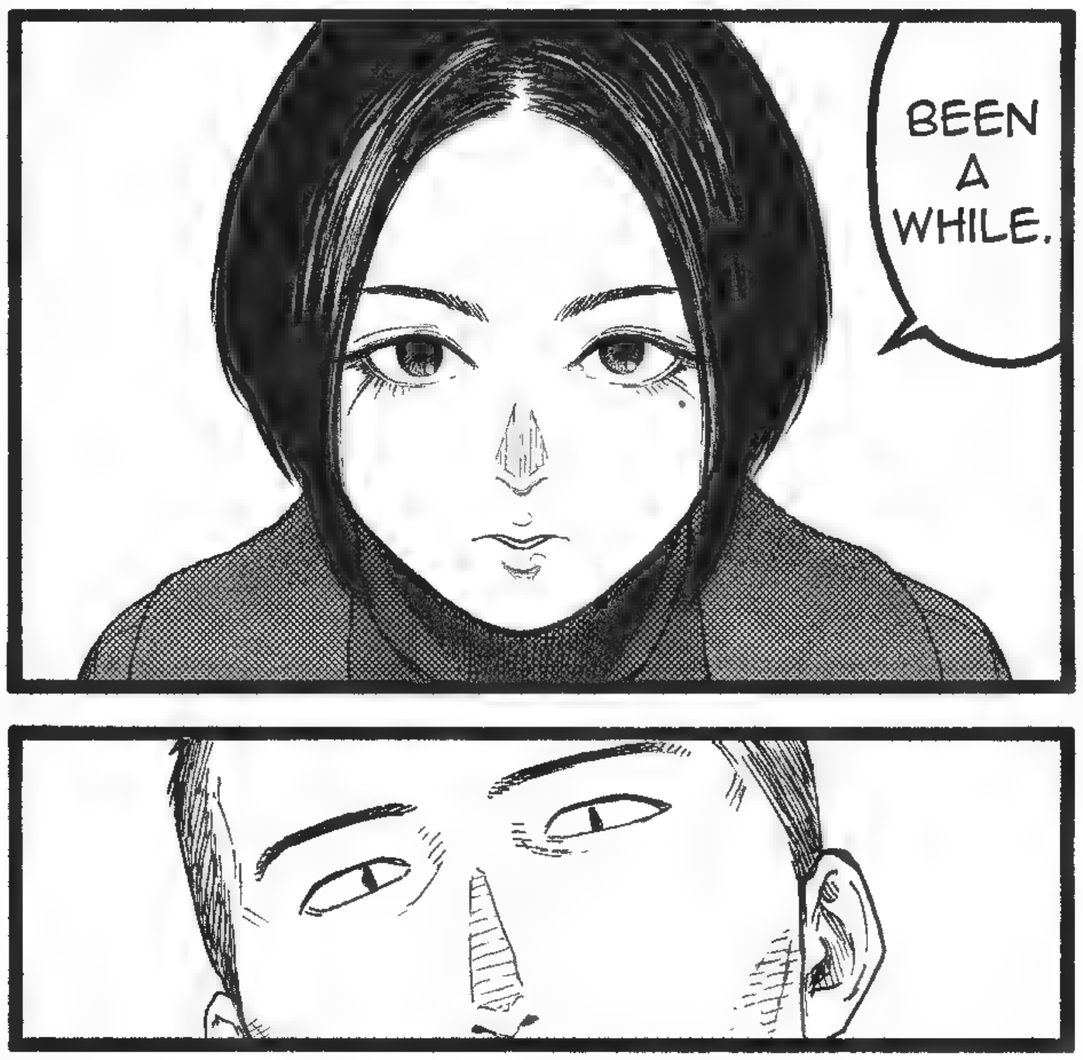
Final File: As Long as It Lasts


HEY.





LIKE YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.
OH.
DIDN'T RECOG-NIZE YOU WITH THAT HAIRCUT.


BEEN A WHILE.

SO WHAT IS IT?

YOU TOLD ME BACK THEN TO BE HERE TODAY, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU REALLY CAME.

HERE.

USE THEM.

ALL THE DOCUMENTS YOU NEED TO CREATE YOUR NEW IDENTITY.

MR. TOSAKI MADE THEM FOR US.

WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS?

BUT I HAVE A REQUEST ...

IT'S REALLY ONLY IF YOU HAVE TIME.

GUESS HE DID IT

EVEN THOUGH HE REALLY DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME.

MR. TO-SAKI.

Name

Date of Birth

Head of Household

I'M NOT A SHIMO-MURA ANYMORE EITHER.

LOOK.

C'MON, YOU'RE NOT THIS OLD.

THAT'S MY ACTUAL AGE ON THERE.

EX-CUSE ME?

TOSAKI SURE HALF-ASSED IT.

?

HAH!

AGAIN, WE'RE ABOUT THE SAME AGE.

GIRLS SURE LOOK YOUNG THESE DAYS...

HUH...

THERE'S ONLY ABOUT A THREE-YEAR DIF-FERENCE BETWEEN US.

WHAT?!

I WISH YOU WOULDN'T BADMOUTH HIM IN FRONT OF ME.

ASS-HOLE.

WELL, IT'S THE LEAST HE COULD'VE DONE FOR US.

I OWE HIM MY LIFE.

SOR-RY...

I'M HEADING BACK.

HUH?

LET'S GET GOING.

NO.

GOT A PLACE TO GO?

I'VE BEEN MOVING AROUND.

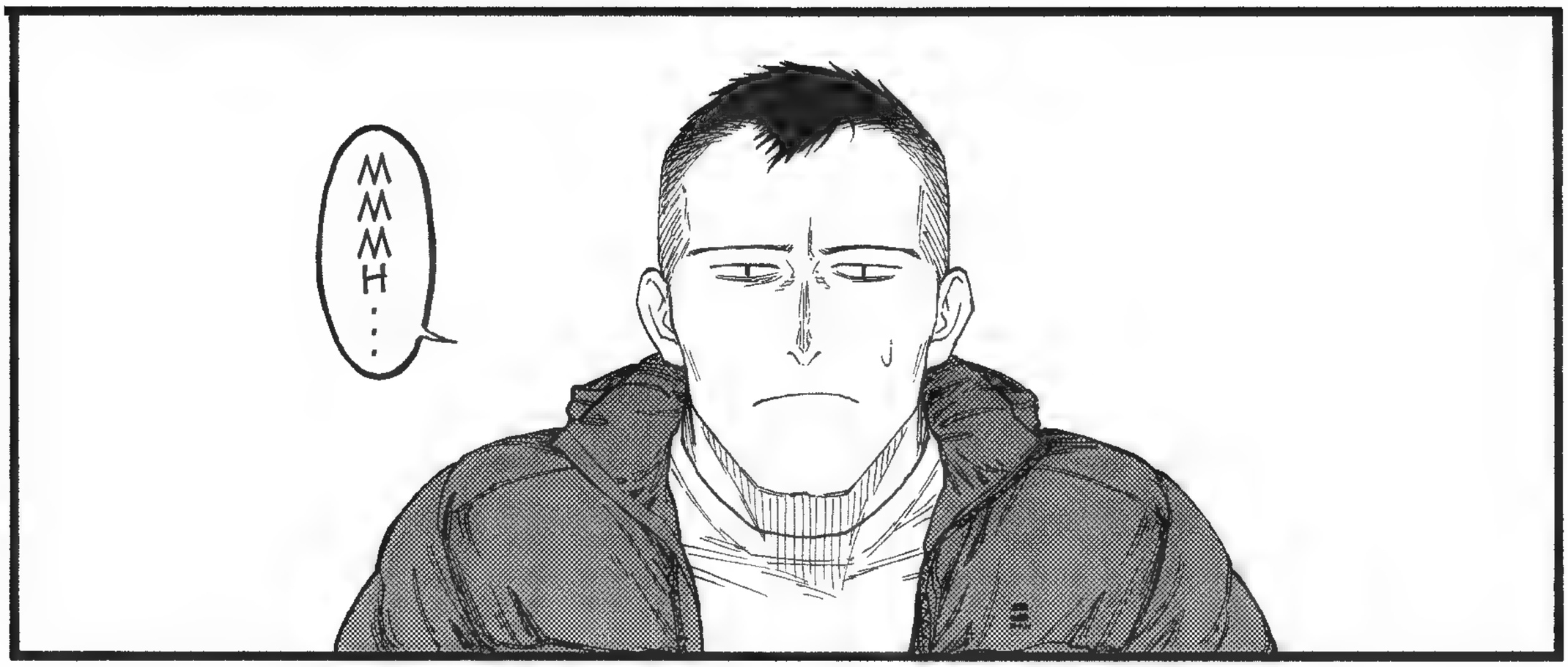
COME TO MY PLACE.

WHAT'S WRONG?

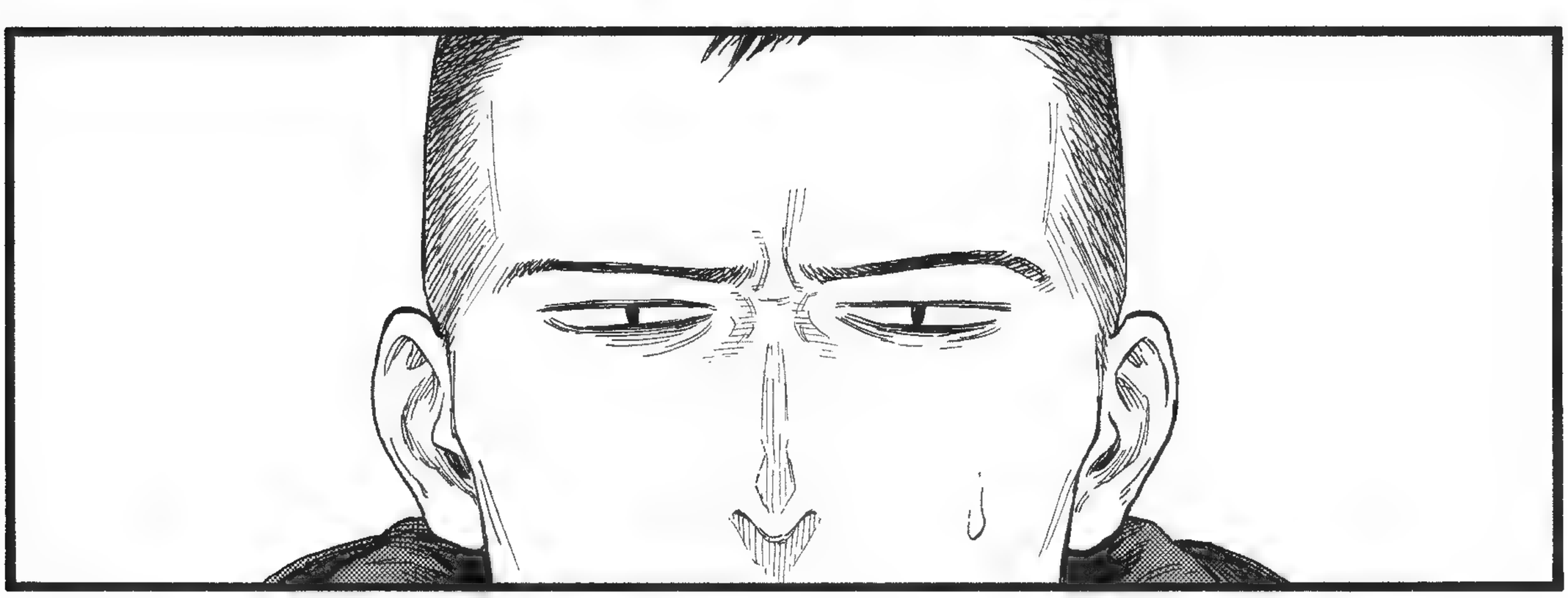
YOU SHOULD WAIT A WHILE BEFORE YOU GO WANDER-ING.

YOU CAN STAY WITH ME 'TIL THINGS SETTLE DOWN.

HUH ?!


MMMH...

HURRY UP.
IT'S COLD.



FINE, THEN.

THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE—

RATTLE

I'M HEALTHY. WHY RUN TESTS ON ME?

DID YOU PLAY HOOKY AGAIN?

SMOKING AREA
WHAT ?!

WE WERE JUST SO HEART-BROKEN WHEN WE SAW THE OBITUARY.

AND WE WERE SO HAPPY WHEN WE HEARD YOU WERE ACTUALLY STILL ALIVE.

THAT SO.

HUH ?

YOU'RE BACK?! YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SOME-THING!

HEY!

...

RIGHT ?

I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU!

WOW !

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? JIM'S CRYING!

GO AHEAD!

'COURSE NOT...

...ARE YOU CRYING?

THAT PAIN IN THE ASS IS BACK.

SMOKING AREA

SMOKING AREA

STILL.

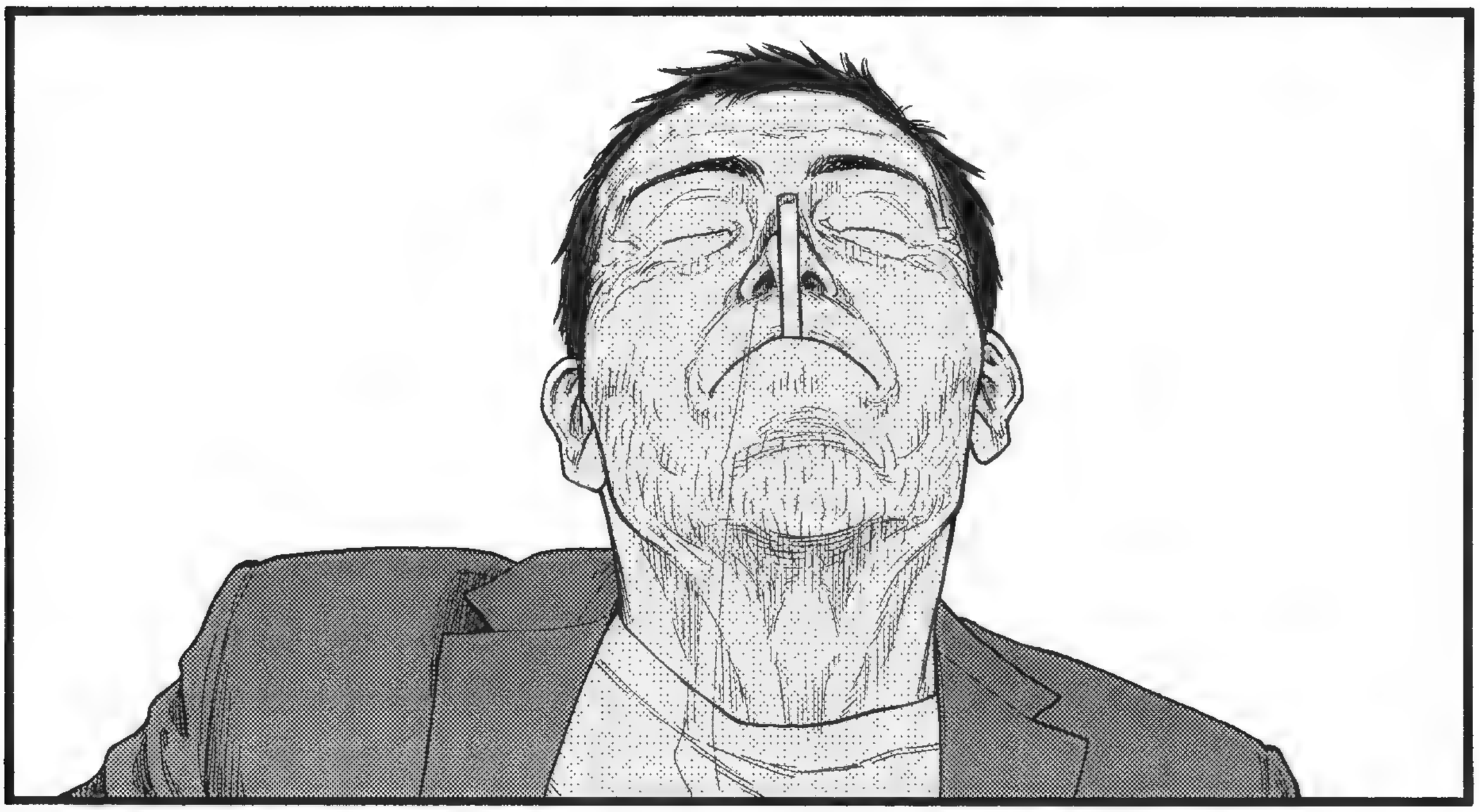
IT SOUNDS LIKE JAPAN WAS A REAL ORDEAL!

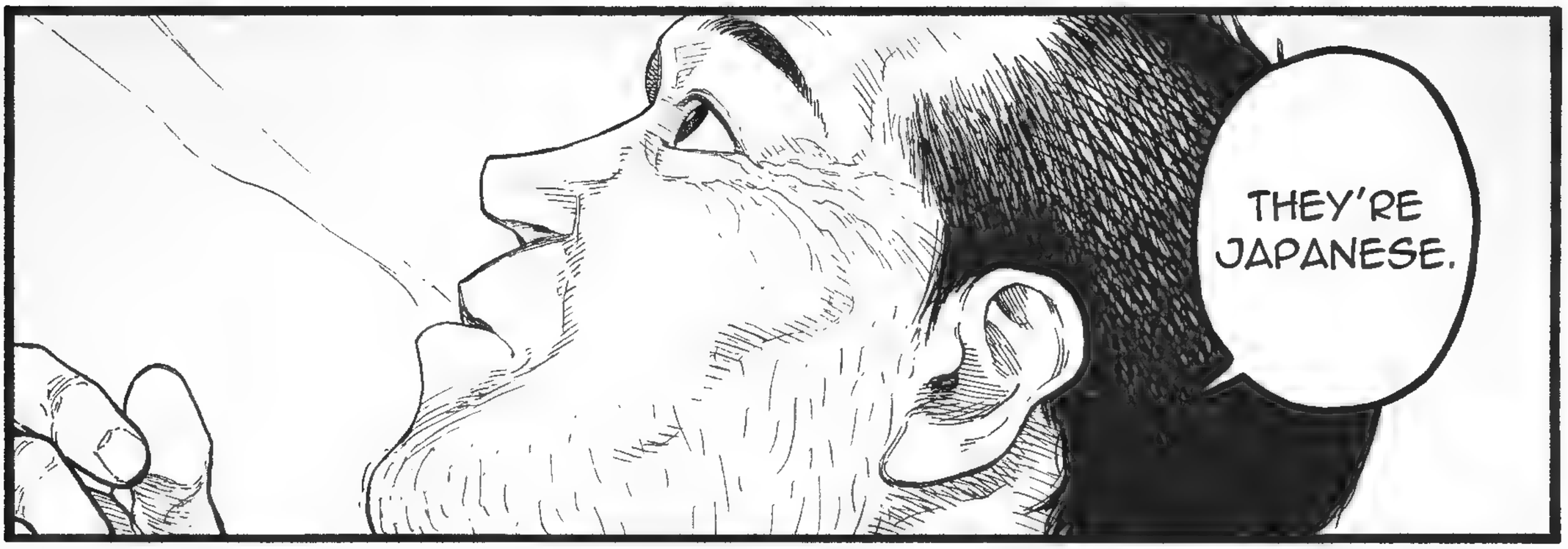
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T SAY THAT.

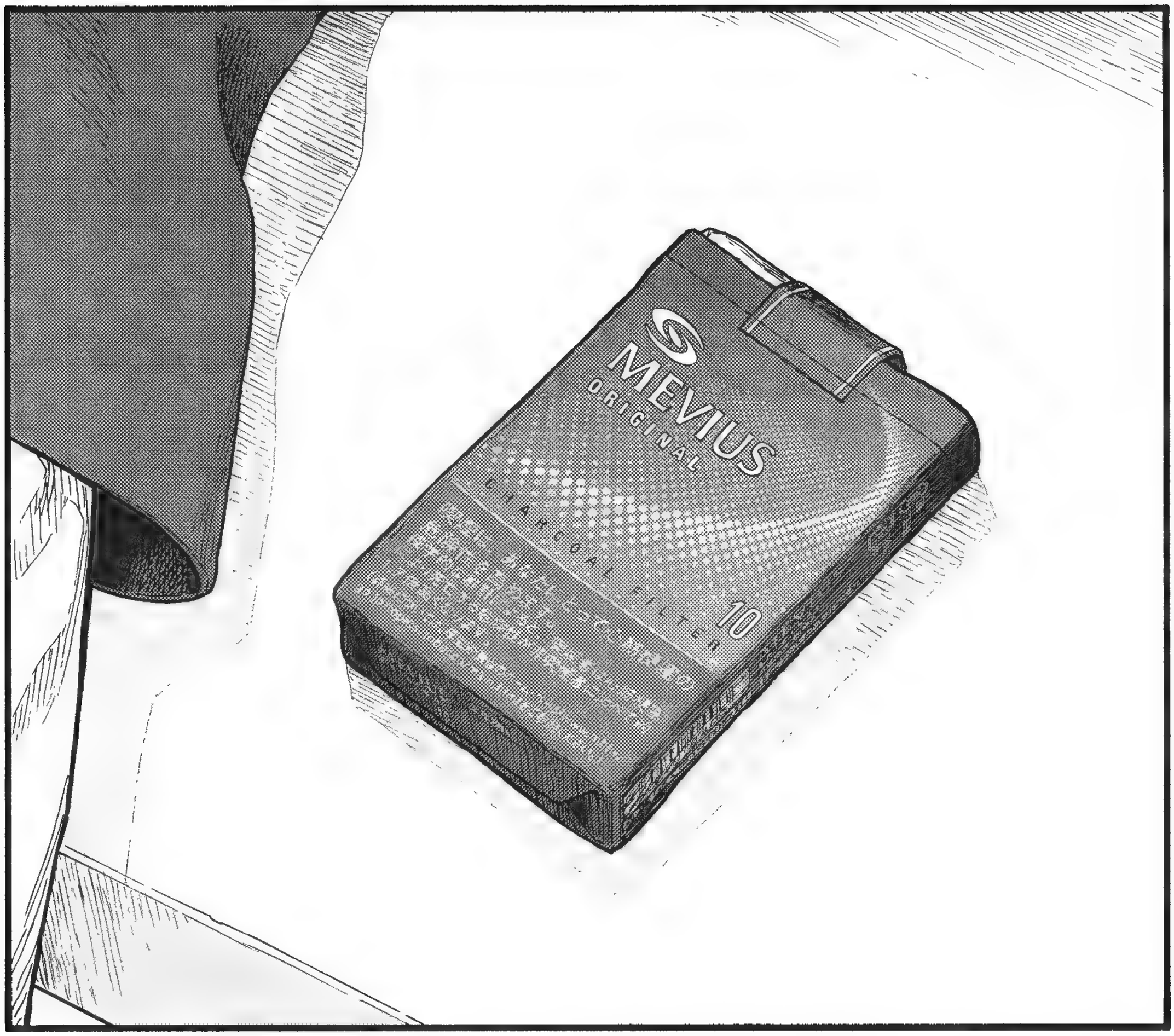
IT WAS FUN.

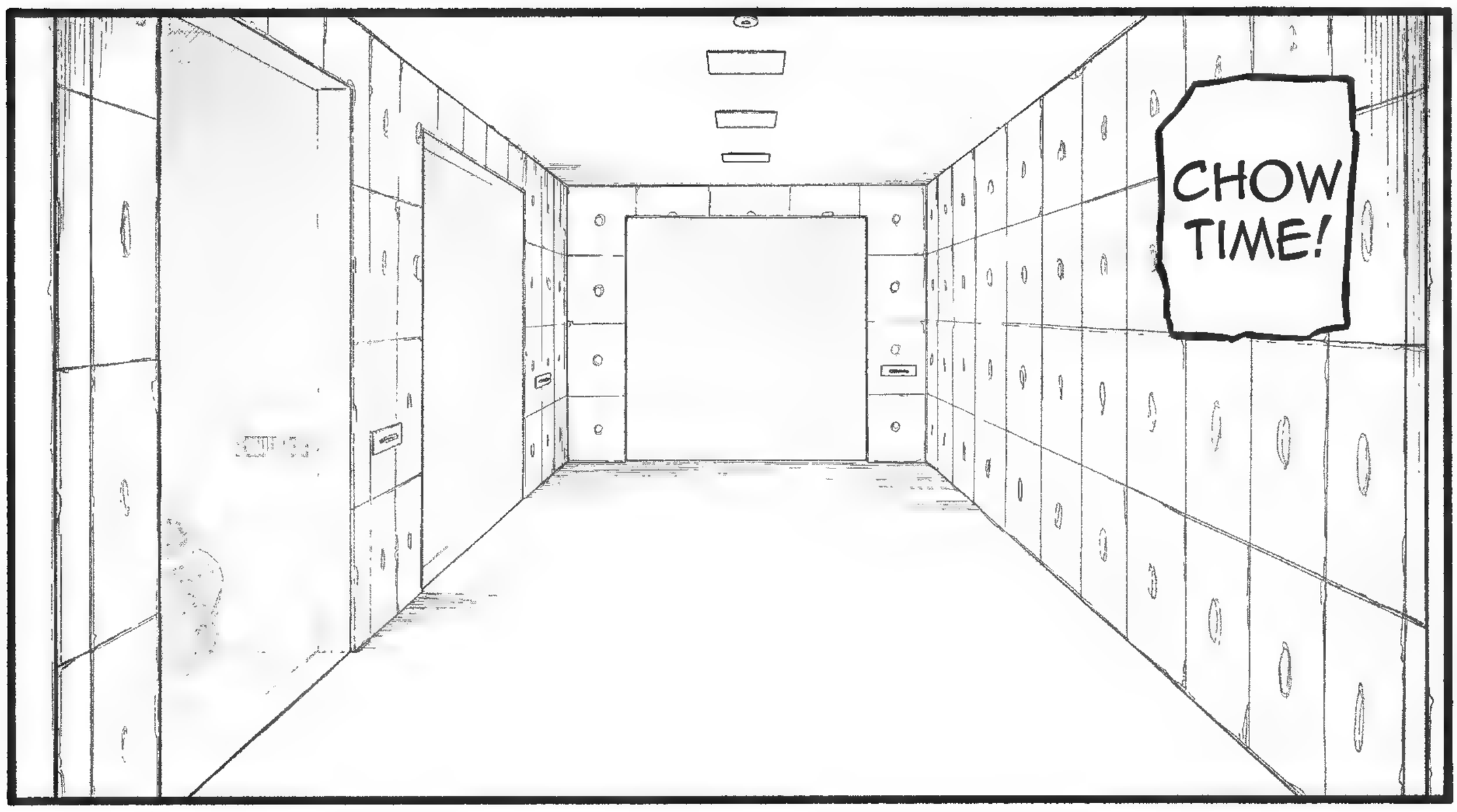
NOT REAL-LY?

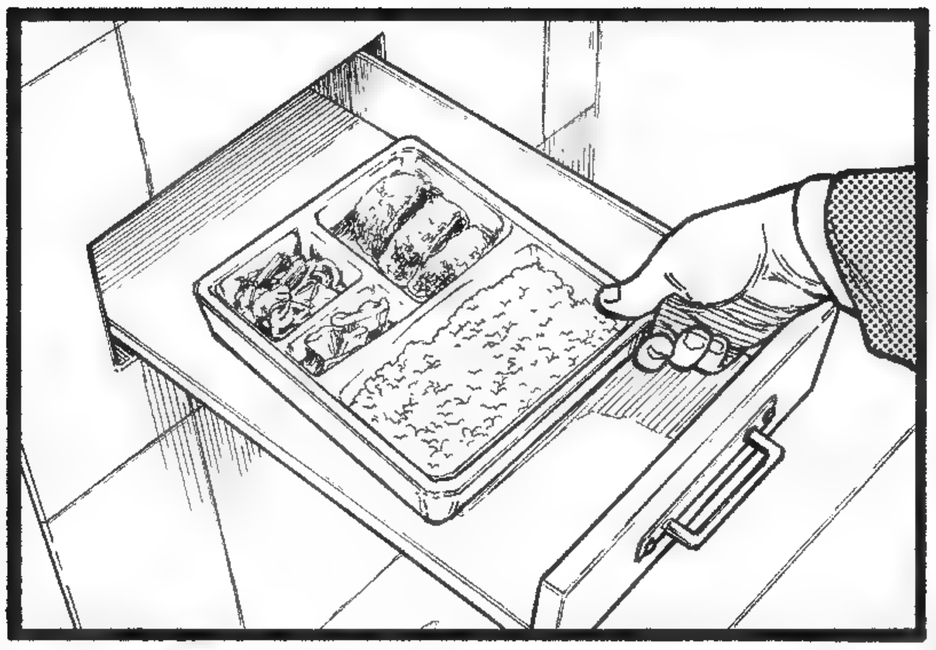
SMOKING SOME OTHER STRANGE BRAND, DOCTOR?




THEY'RE JAPANESE.


SEVIUS
ORIGINAL
CHARCOAL RITES
10


CHOW TIME!



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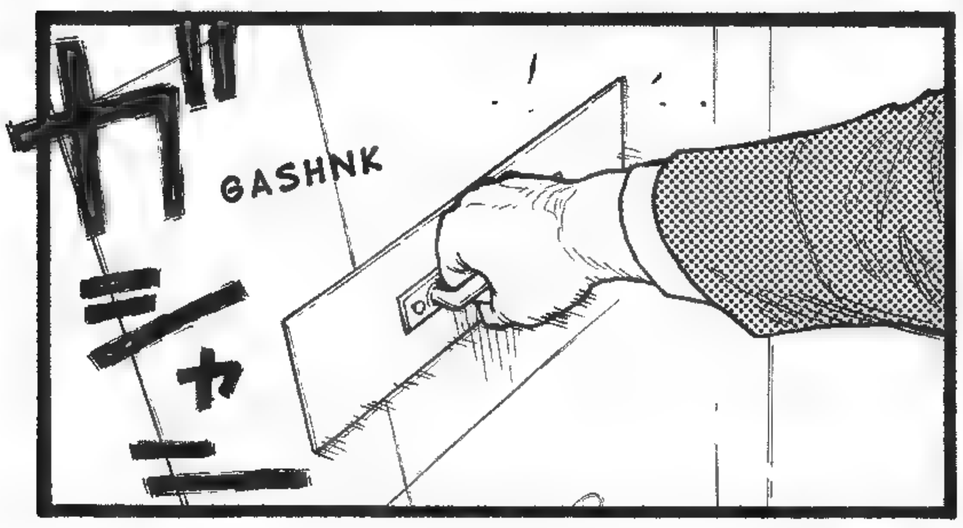
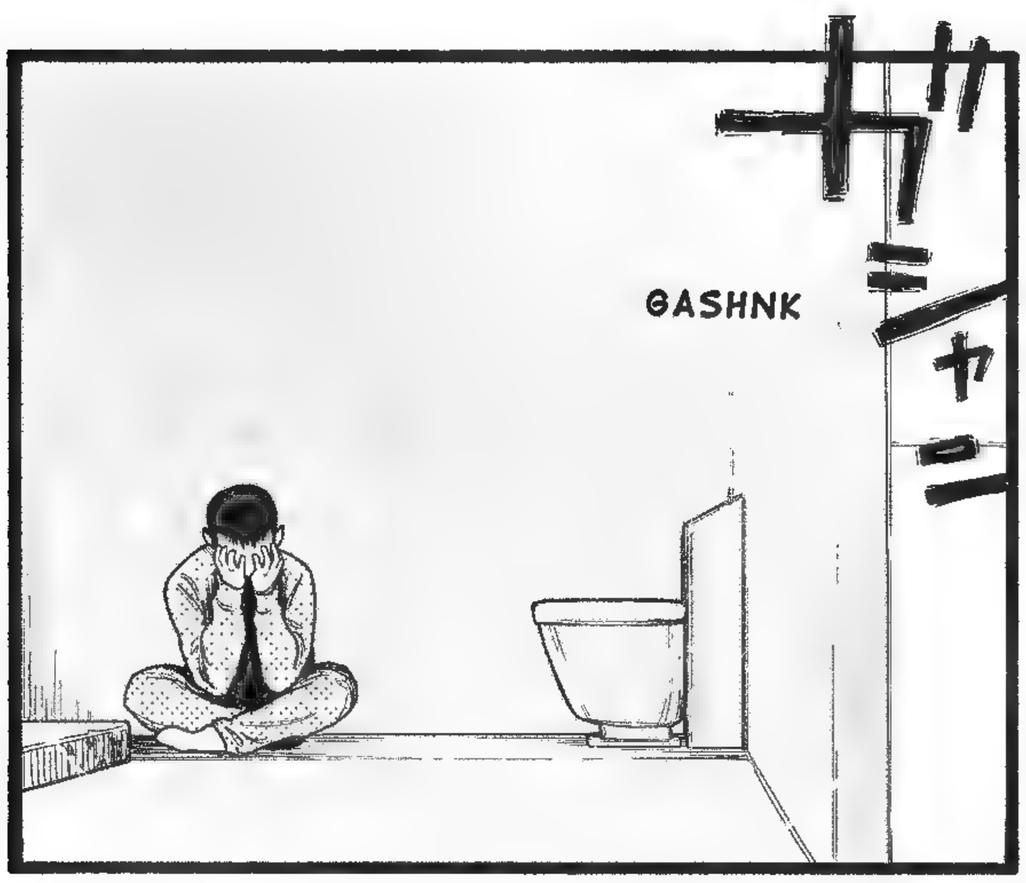

GASHNK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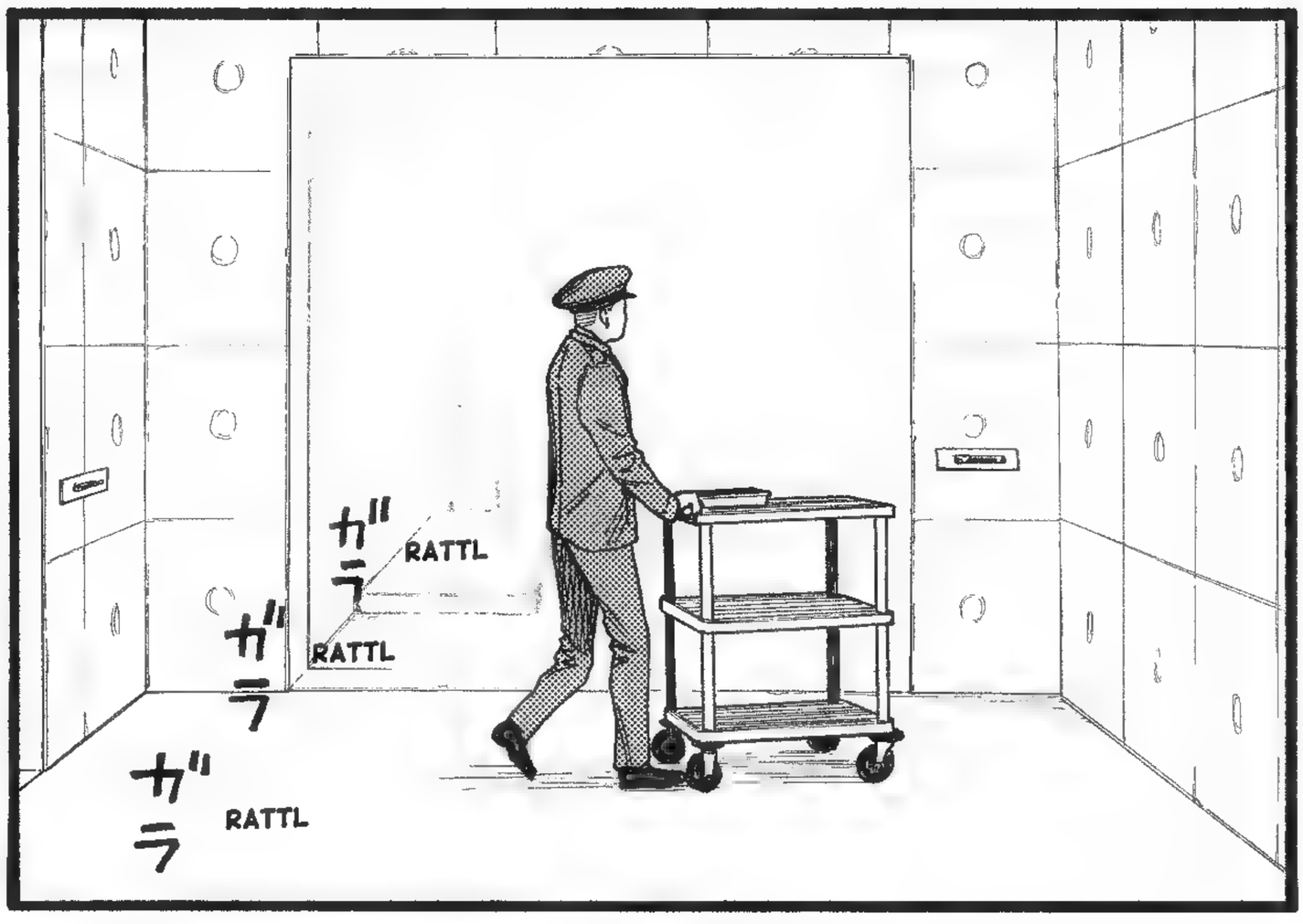
HEY
...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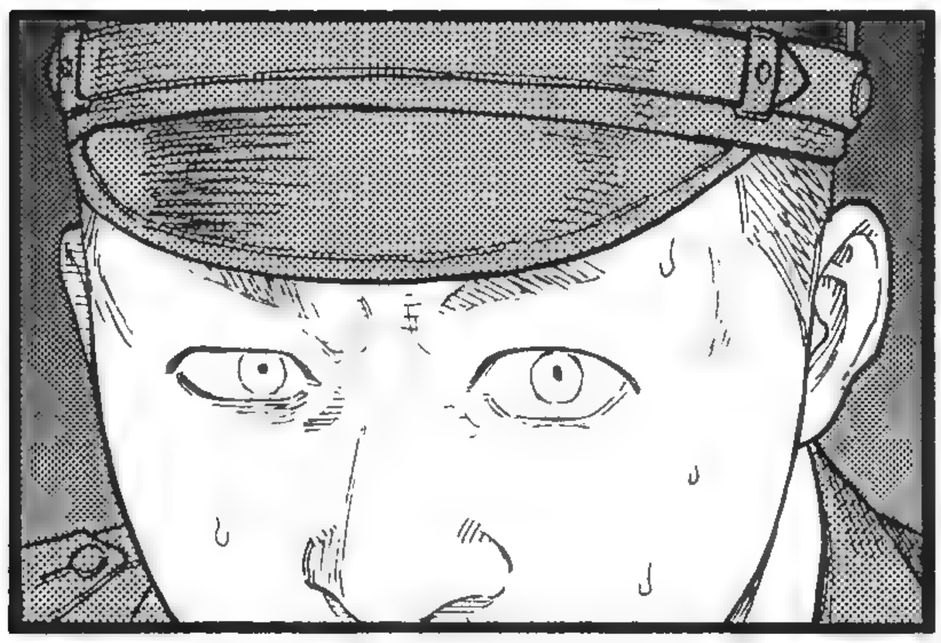
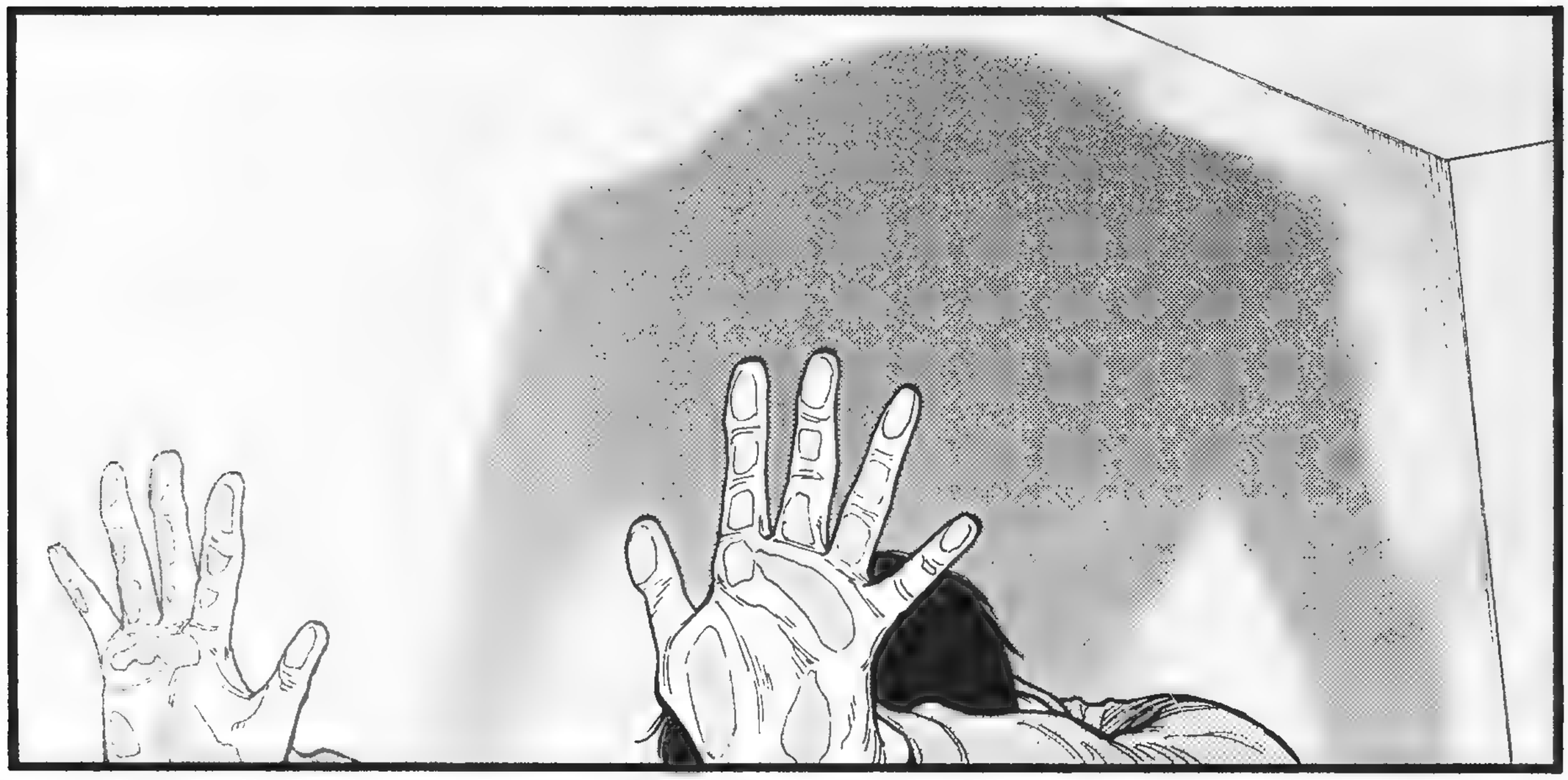
THEY GAVE THE DEATH PENALTY TO SOME GUY WHO MURDERED SEVEN PEOPLE.
I SAW ON THE NEWS.



SO WHAT ABOUT US?



AAGH!

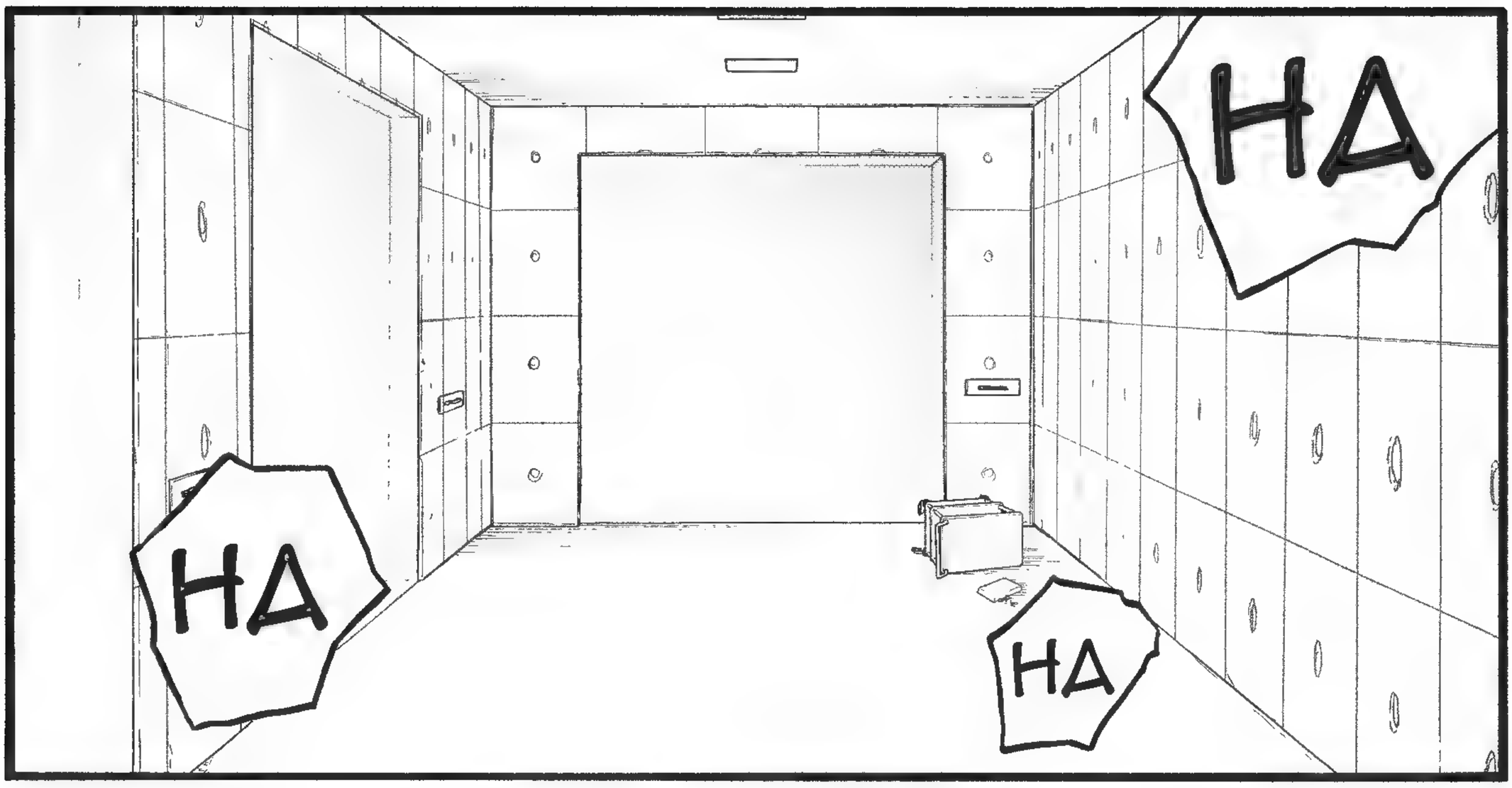
NNH...

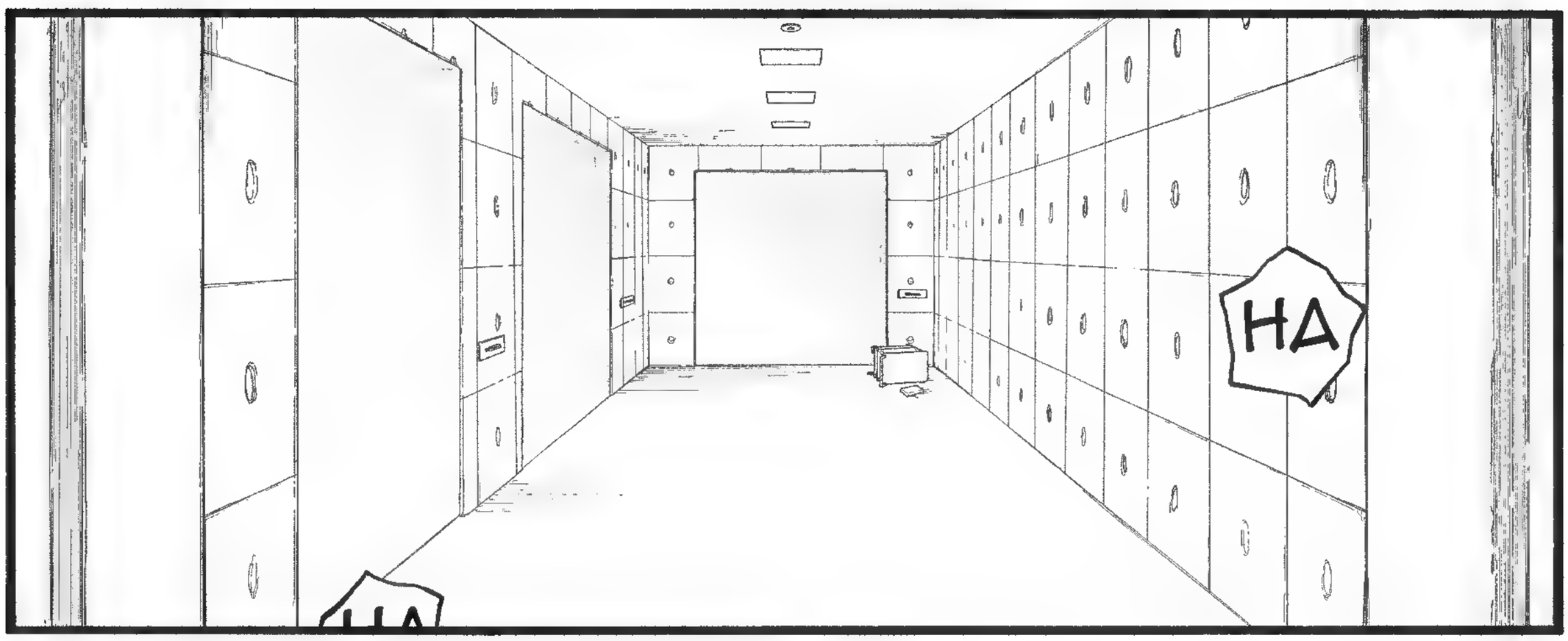
HA HA!

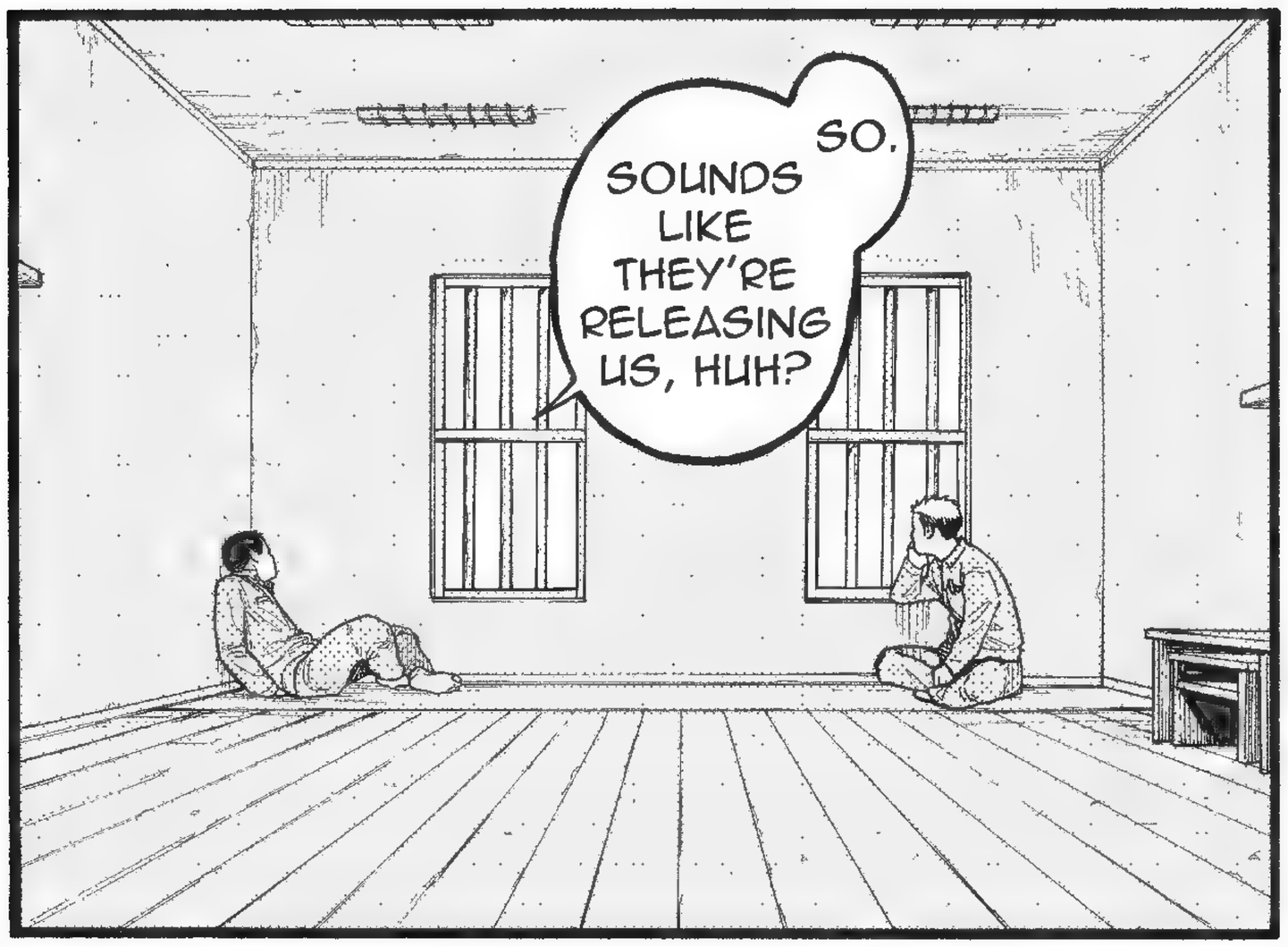
EN-JOY

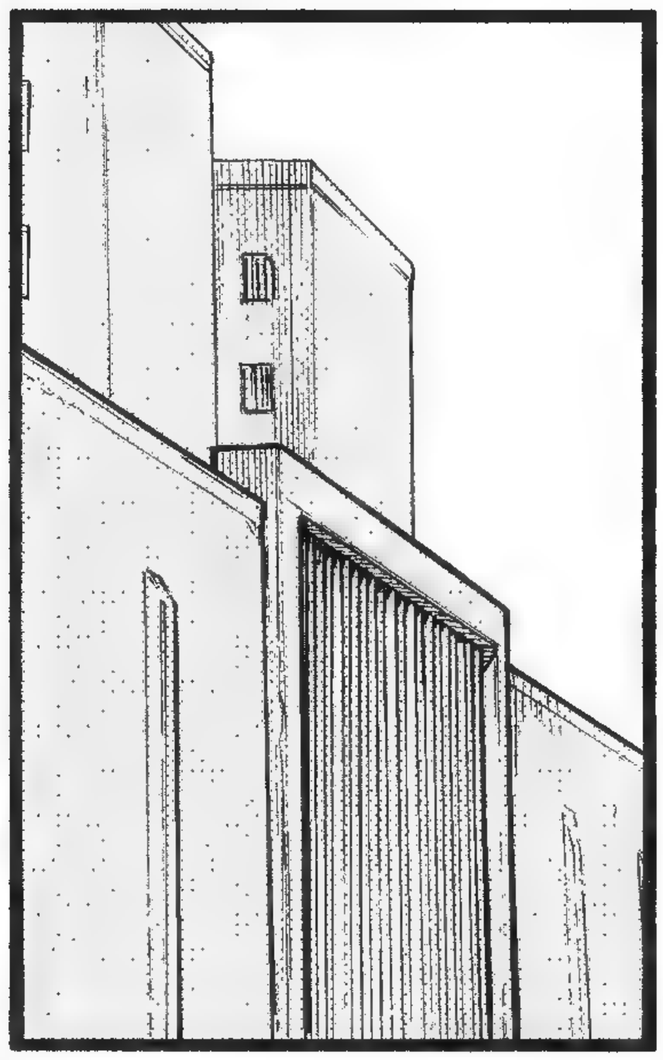
THE SITUA-TION.

DON'T LOOK SO DOWN, YOU GUYS.


HA
HA
HA


HA
HA


SO,
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE RELEASING US, HUH?



THEY PROBABLY WANT US OUT OF HERE.

WELL, AFTER SOME-THING LIKE THAT HAPPENS TWICE...

CLOSED THIS FACILITY ON AUGUST 6TH

BUT

WE CAN'T FIND ANY EVIDENCE AS TO HOW HE EVER ESCAPED.

KINDA SUDDEN, HUH.

YEAH.

WORK.

WHAT'LL YOU DO ONCE YOU'RE OUT?

THAT DAY.

SOME-THING HAP-PENED.

YOU GET REFORMED OR SOME-THING?

WHAT?

I THOUGHT I'D DIED.

I HEARD A LOUD NOISE.

AND MY MOUTH FILLED UP WITH BLOOD.

GUESS THAT'S NOT IT.

?

?

...

CAN YOU SEE THIS?

JUST A BIG BRUISE ON MY CHEST.

BUT MY BODY WAS TOTALLY FINE.

THEN, WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS IN A SEWER OR SOME-THING.

BUT ...

I THINK IT MEANS I NEED TO TONE IT DOWN.

DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

NOPE.

THERE'S NOTHING PAST IT.

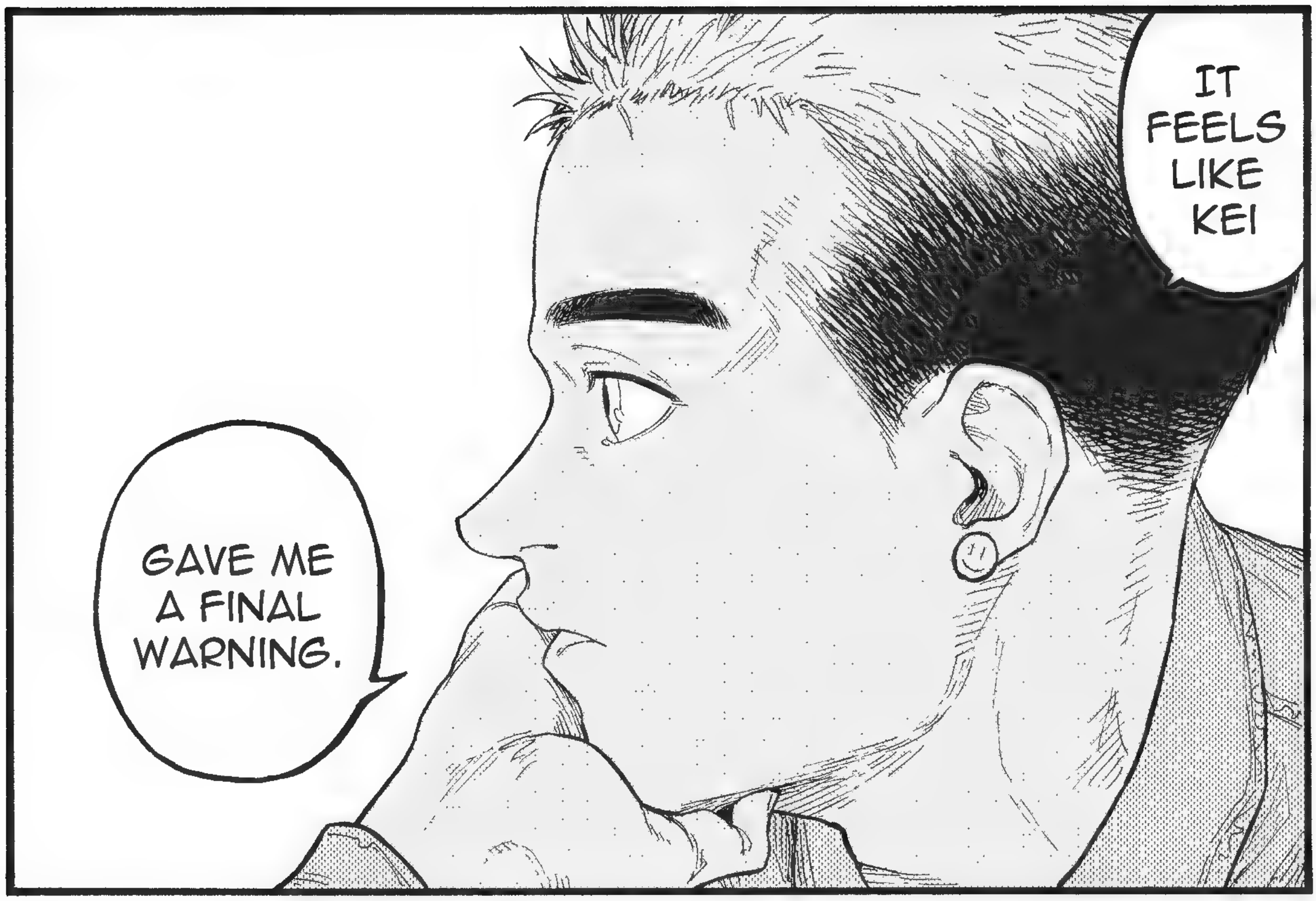
BUT THAT DAY, I SAW OVER THE LAST WALL, JUST A LITTLE.

I'VE NEVER WORRIED ABOUT CONSE-QUENCES BEFORE.

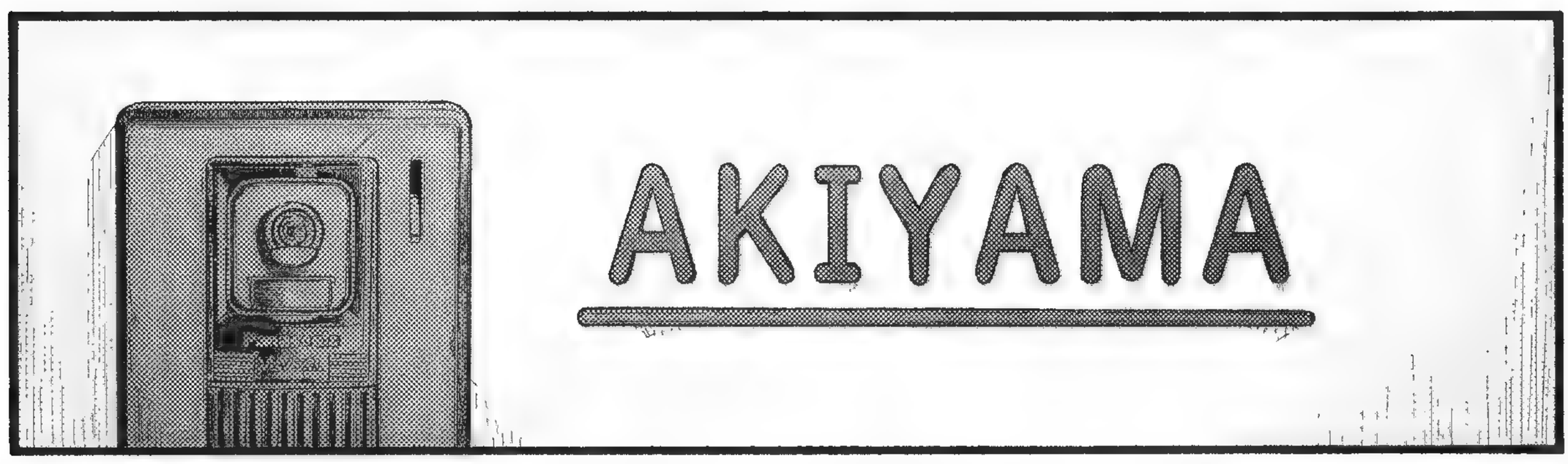
WHAT HAP-PENED THAT SUMMER ...

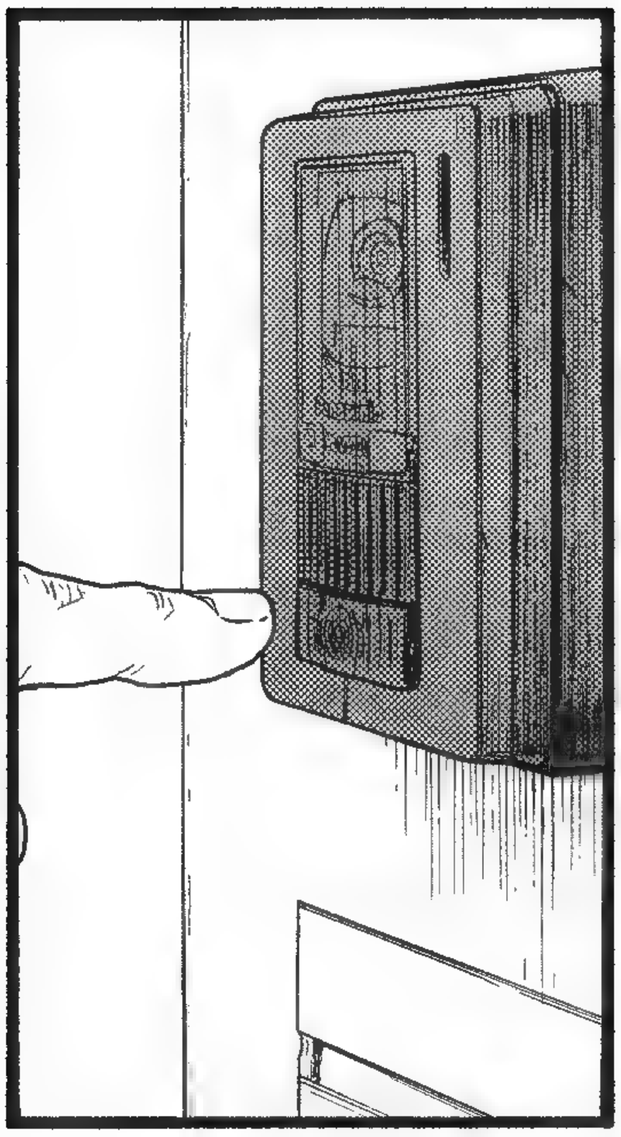
YOU DON'T MAKE A LICK OF SENSE, MAN.

FROM START TO FIN-ISH,


IT FEELS LIKE KEI
GAVE ME A FINAL WARNING.

AKIYAMA


AKIYAMA



AH
...

LET
ME
EX-
PLAIN.

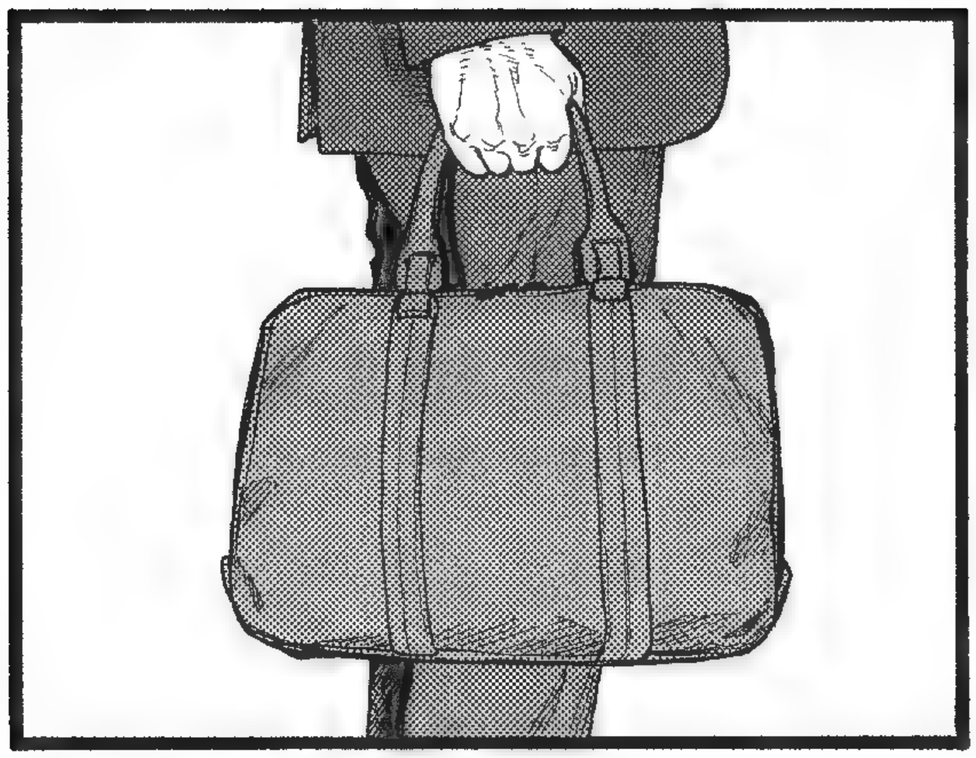
SMAK

...

SOR-
RY...

AKIYAMA

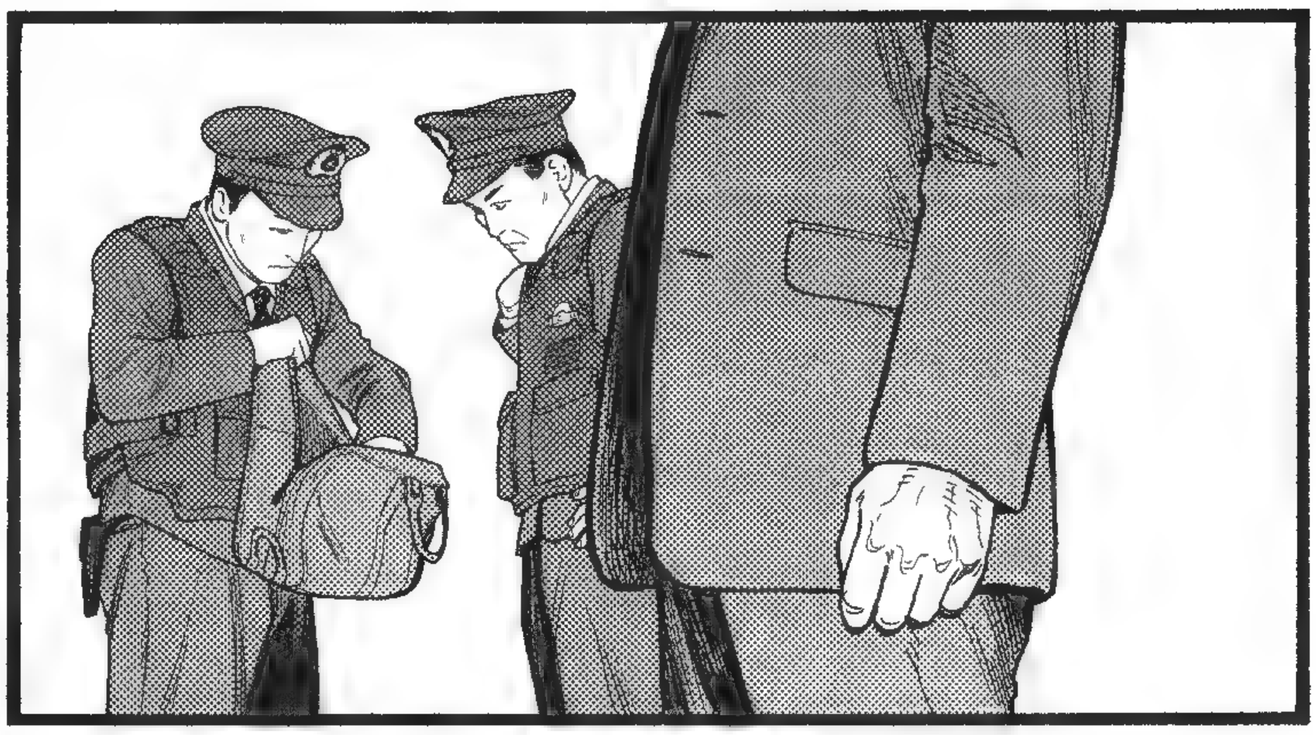
TELL ME
INSIDE.



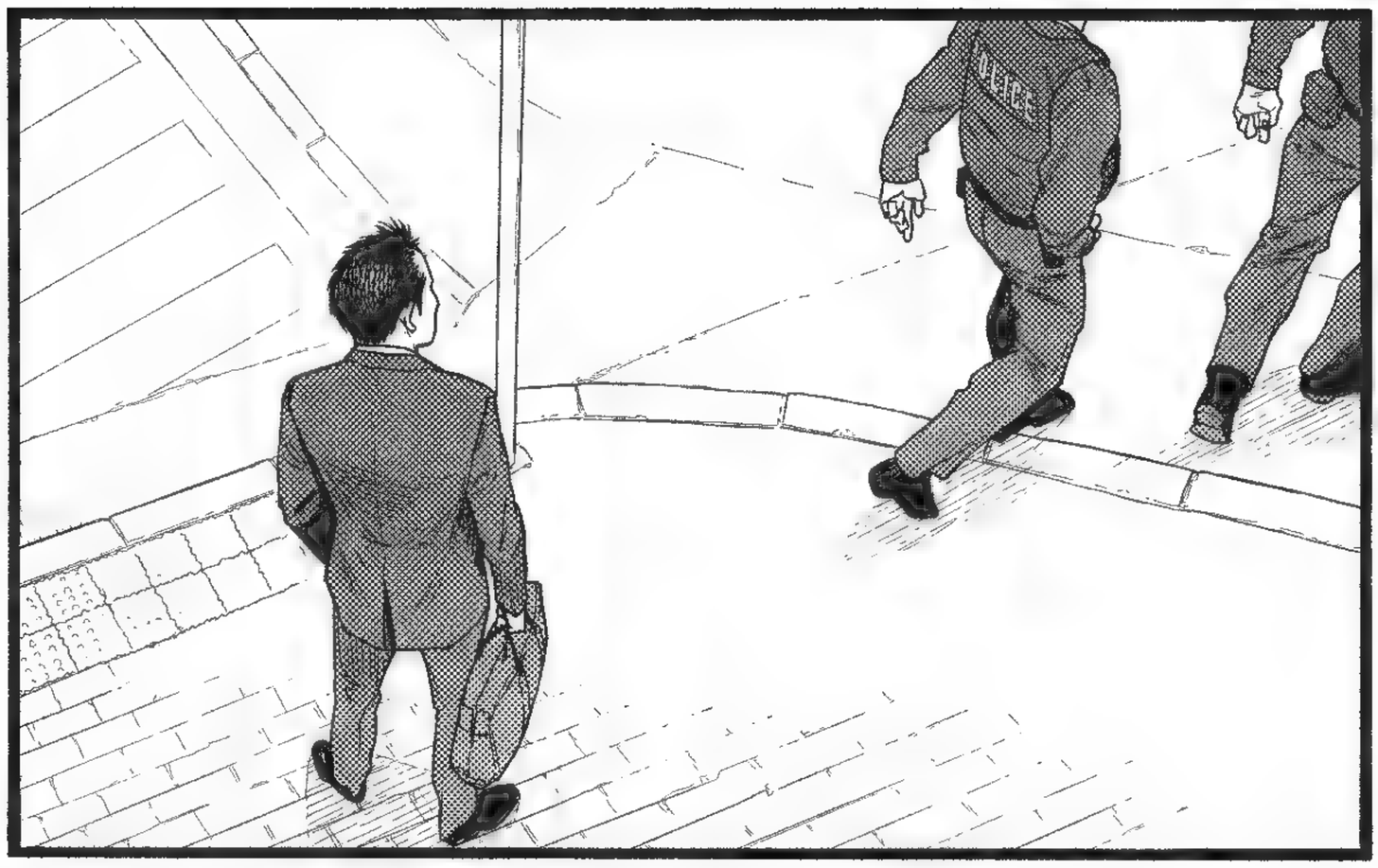
FINE WITH ME.
...

WOULD YOU MIND SHOWING US WHAT'S IN THE BAG?
EXCUSE ME. WE'RE INVESTIGAT-ING A THEFT.
POLICE
POLICE

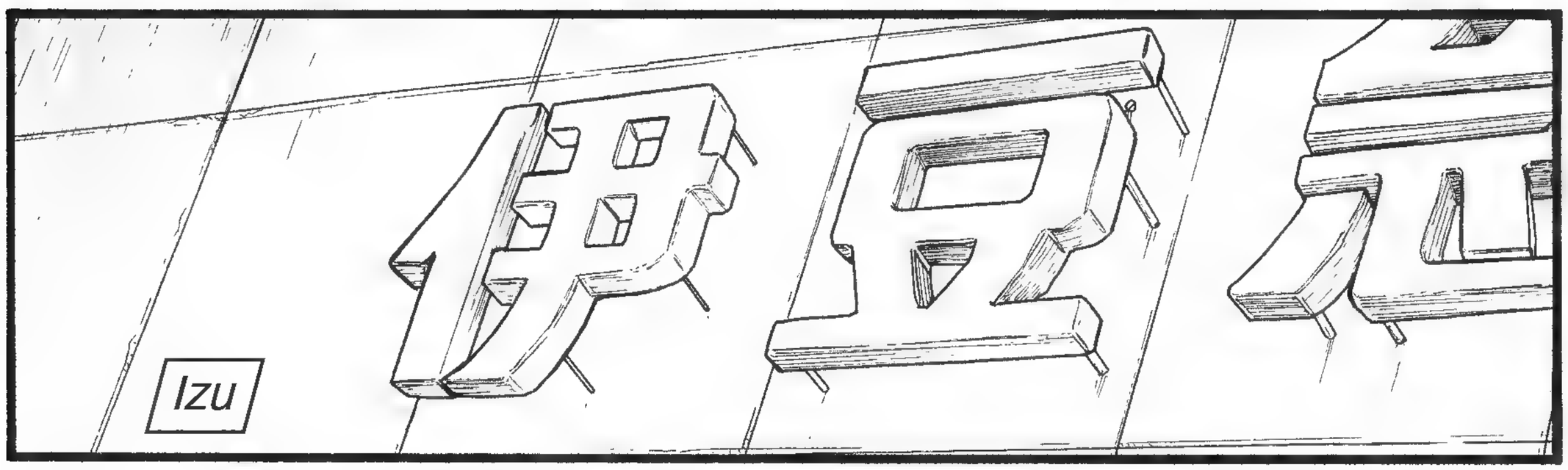
EVERY-THING LOOKS GOOD.
SORRY FOR THE TROU-BLE.

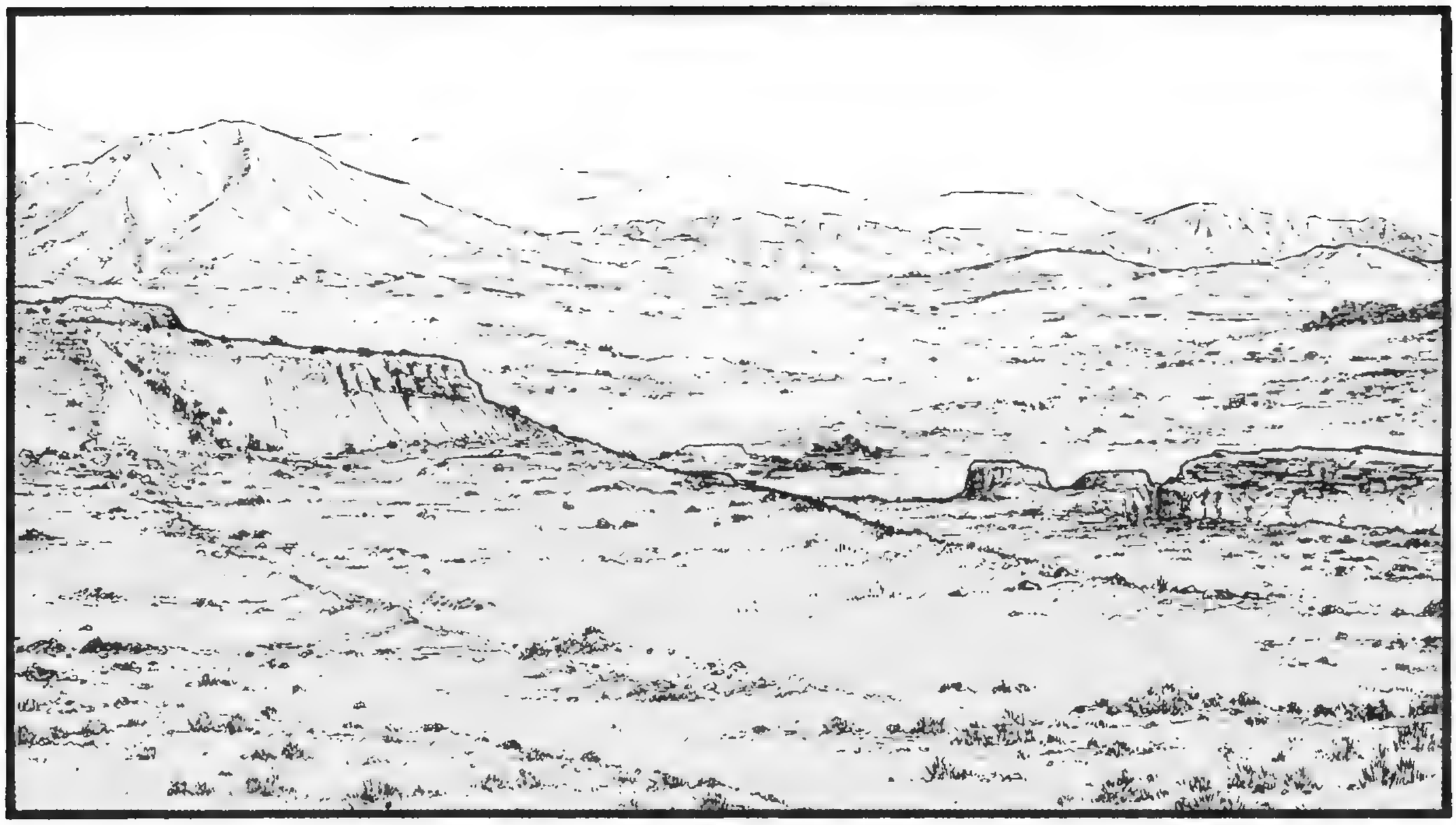


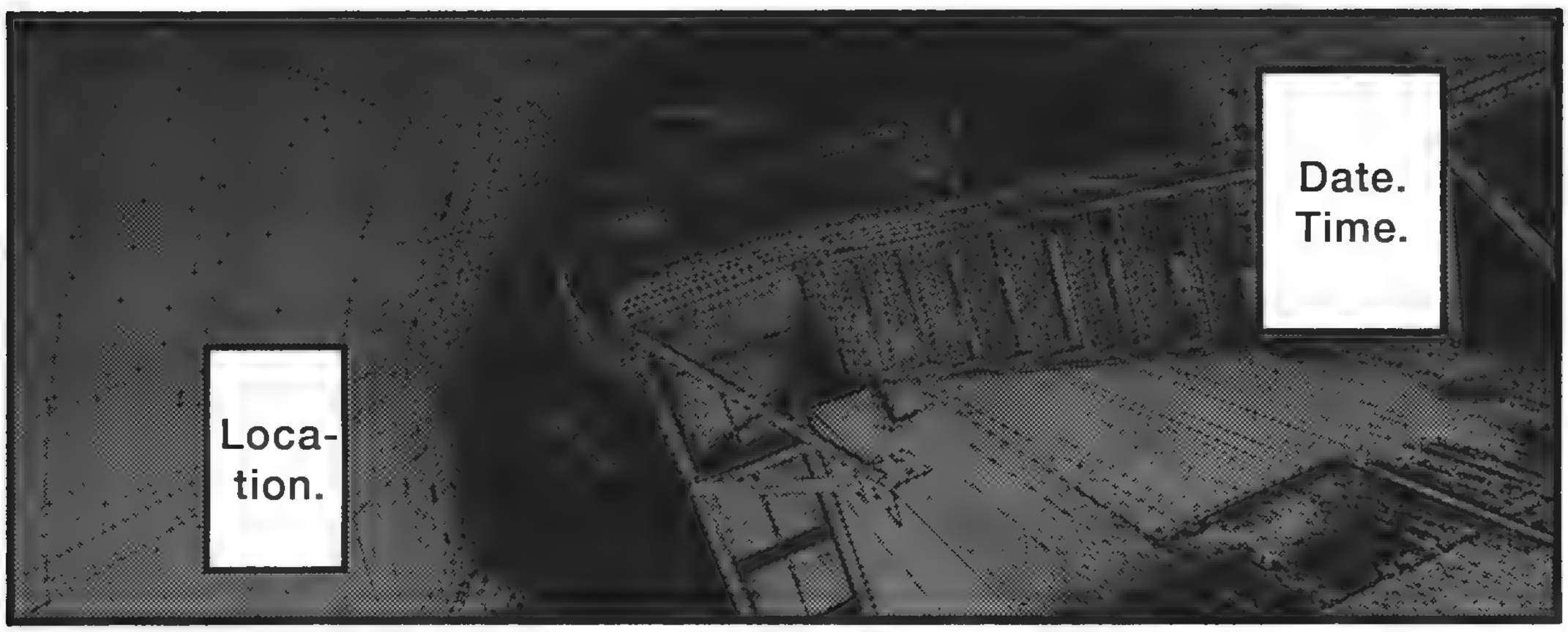
WITH A FACE LIKE THIS, I UNDER-STAND.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.


POLICE

Izukyu-Shimoda Station
伊豆急下田


Izu
伊豆




Date.
Time.
Loca-
tion.

Unknown.

ONGOING MATTERS INCLUDE—

...

SHIFT CHANGE.

OKAY.

WHY IS IT OUR COUNTRY TAKING CARE OF THIS?

STILL ...

I'VE HEARD RUMORS THEY'RE CONSIDERING MILITARY USES.

SO THAT'S IT...?

THIS WHOLE THING'S BEEN A REAL BLACK EYE FOR THE MILITARY.

BUT THE BRASS WANTS TO HIDE IT.

THIS FACILITY WAS DESIGNED BY A GROUP OF EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF CRYONICS.

WE CAN FREEZE HIM, AND MAINTAIN HIM IN A STATE WHERE HE'S NEITHER DEAD NOR ALIVE.

I'VE HEARD THAT DEMI-HUMANS CAN DIE OF OLD AGE...

UNTIL THE DAY WE FIGURE OUT HOW TO KILL A DEMI-HUMAN, THAT IS.

DON'T WOR-RY.

HE'S NOT GOING TO AGE, RIGHT?

BUT SO LONG AS HE'S IN HERE,

THIS FACIL-ITY

IS GUARAN-TEED TO REMAIN OP-ERATIONAL FOR THE NEXT 200 YEARS.

200 YEARS ...

Samuel T. Owen

"Sato"

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SEE ?
SO HER BROTHER WAS WORKING WITH THE POLICE...

IT'S AMAZ-ING.

PHEW, THAT TOOK FOR-EVER.
ALL THOSE TESTS!

OPINIONS LIKE THEIRS AREN'T GROUNDED IN ANY-THING. THE SLIGHTEST INFLU-ENCE CAN CHANGE THEIR MINDS.

WHY DO YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THAT KIND OF CHATTER?

I-I DON'T!

WHO KNOWS?

I WONDER

WHAT KEI'S DOING RIGHT NOW.

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE IS!

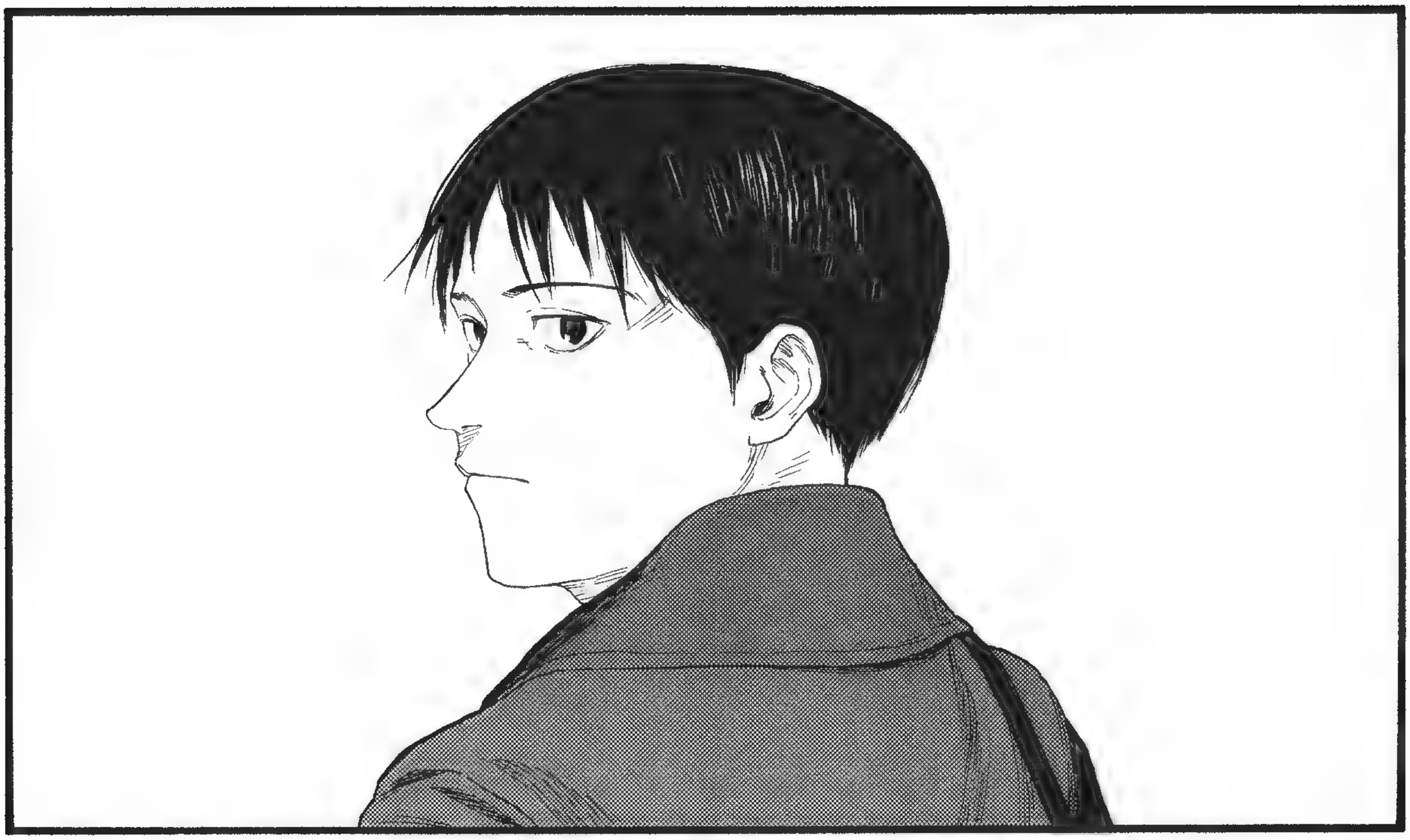
YOU REALLY DON'T CARE, DO YOU?

WELL.

I MEAN,

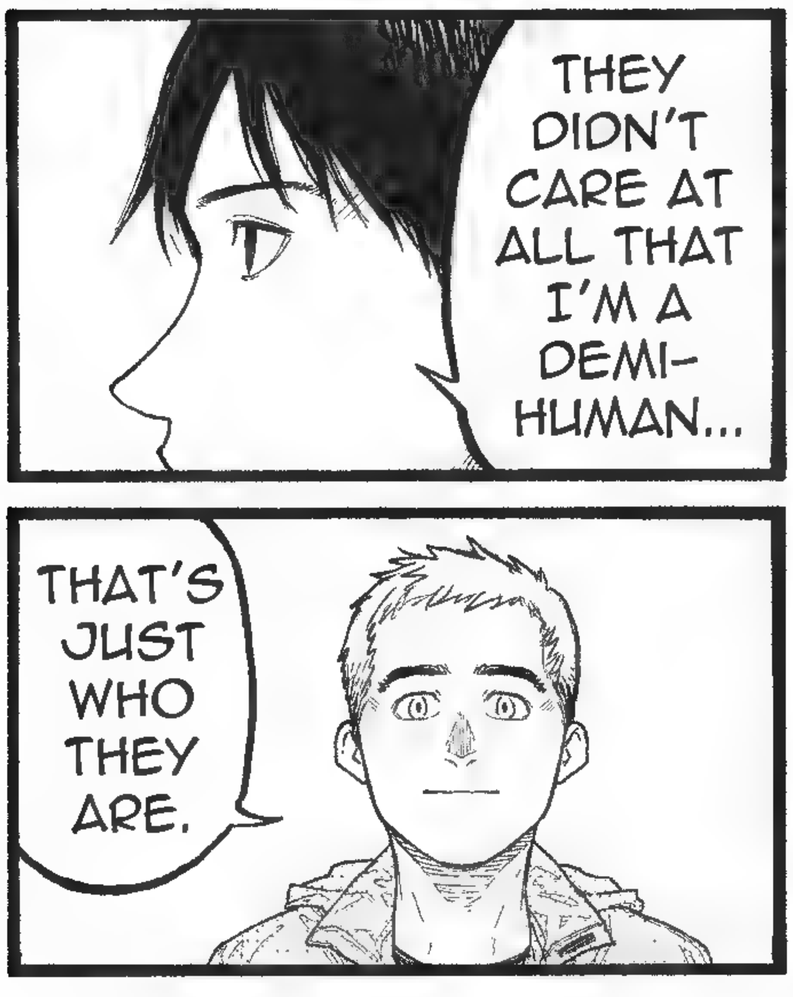
I IMAGINE HE'S ALIVE, AT LEAST.

NAGAI
!

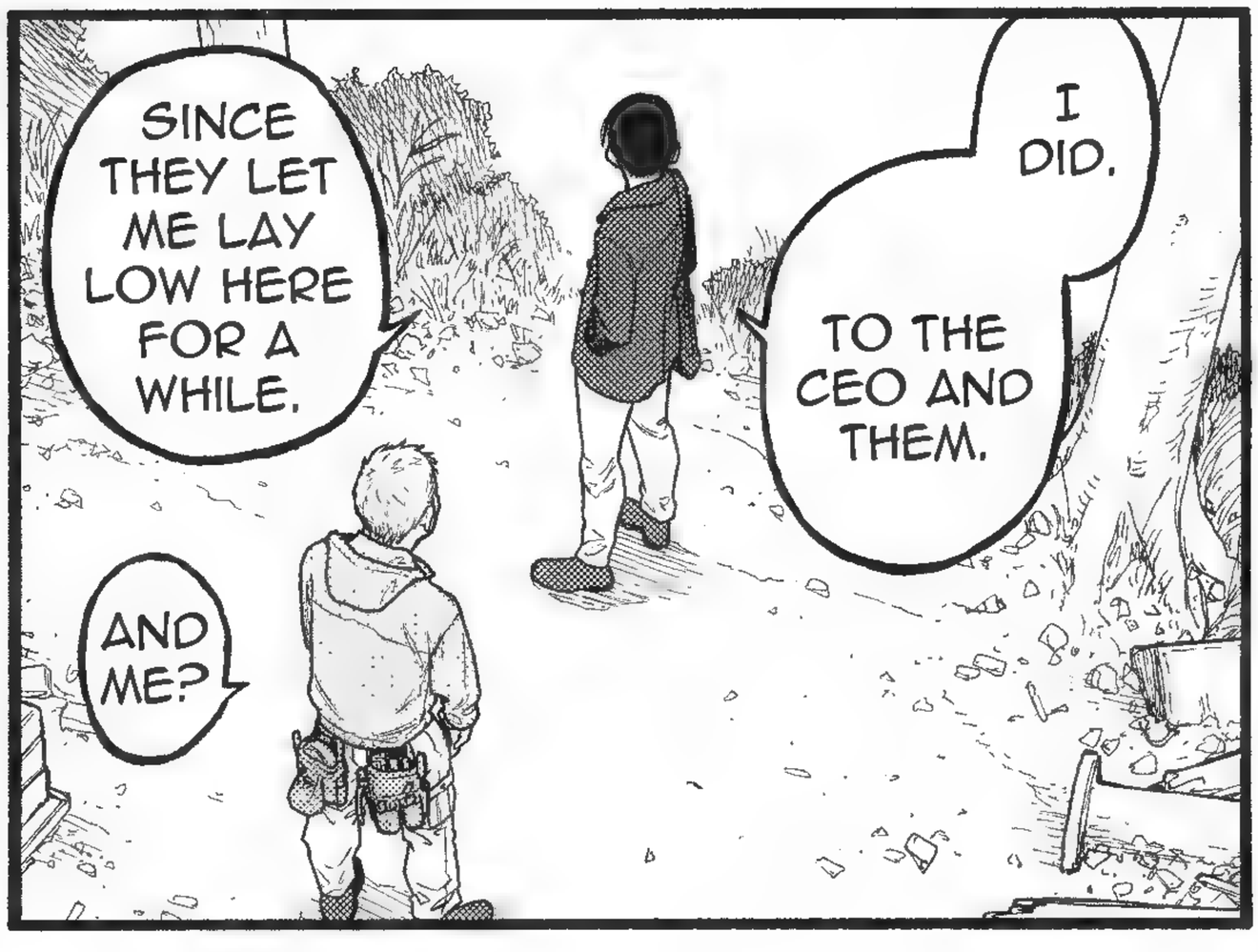


NOT GONNA SAY GOOD-BYE?

YOU GOING?


THEY DIDN'T CARE AT ALL THAT I'M A DEMI-HUMAN...

THAT'S JUST WHO THEY ARE.


SINCE THEY LET ME LAY LOW HERE FOR A WHILE.
I DID.
TO THE CEO AND THEM.
AND ME?

YEAH.
BUT I DON'T THINK I NEED TO USE IT FOR NOW.
YOU GOT ONE TOO, RIGHT?
ALSO, STOP CALLING ME NAGAI.
I HAVE A NEW NAME AS OF TODAY.
FROM THE START.
KILL THE MINIS-TER.
THEN I HAVE A DEMAND OF MY OWN.
I KNOW WHAT MR. TOSAKI TOLD US,
BUT HE'D PREPARED NEW IDEN-TITIES FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION.
PROMISE YOU'LL PREPARE ME A NICE NEW IDENTITY AND NEVER SEARCH FOR ME AGAIN.
IF WE CAPTURE SATO AND RESOLVE THIS SITUA-TION,
HE WAS AN AMAZING PERSON.

A LOT WENT DOWN, HUH.

ZAKK

ZAKK

ZAKK

I SHOULD GET GOING.

WELL.

ZAKK

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?

WHERE ARE YOU GONNA GO?

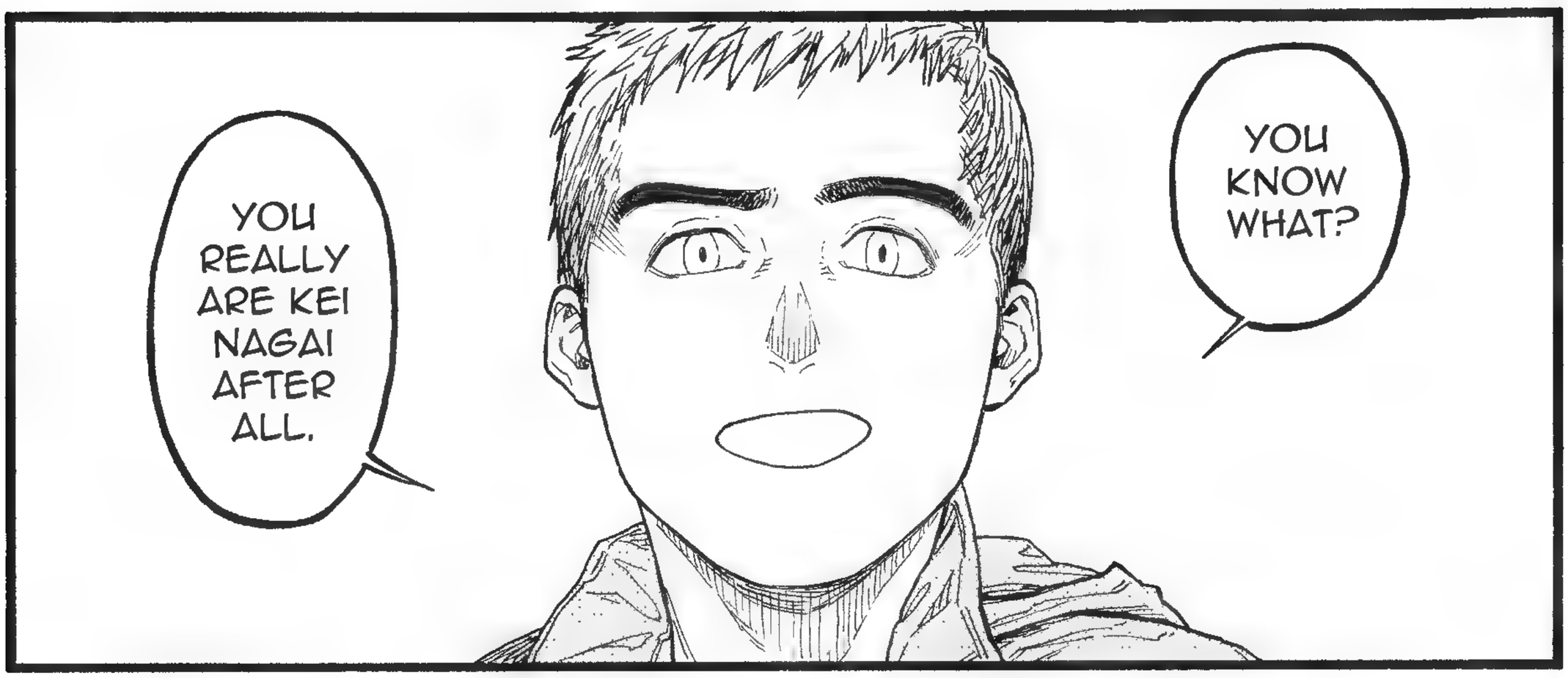
NOW THAT YOU HAVE THIS NEW NAME,

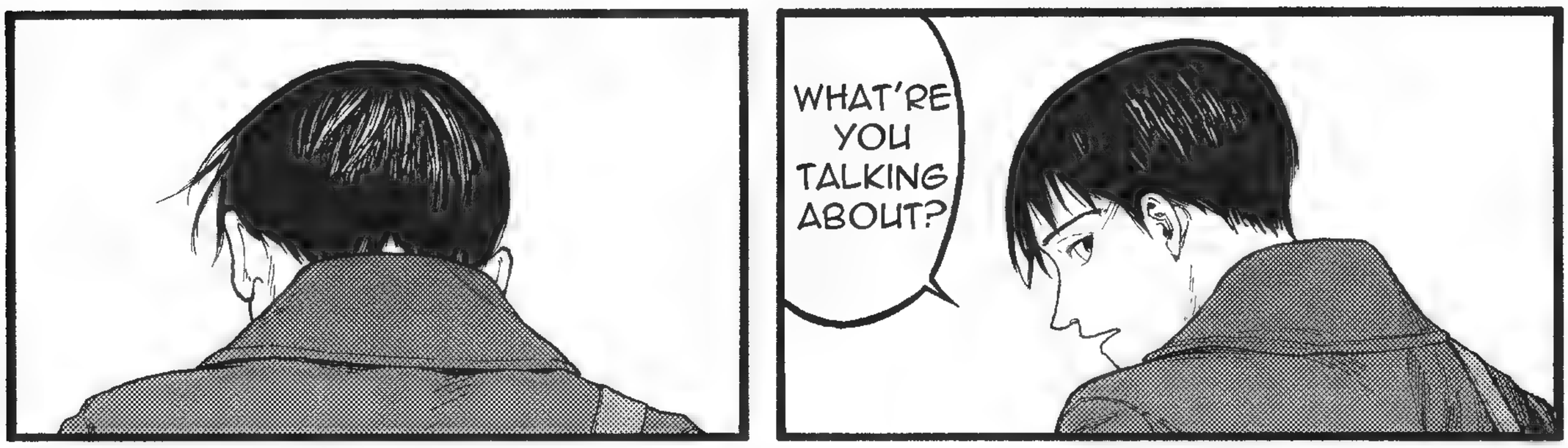
I'M GOING TO BECOME A DOCTOR, WHAT ELSE?

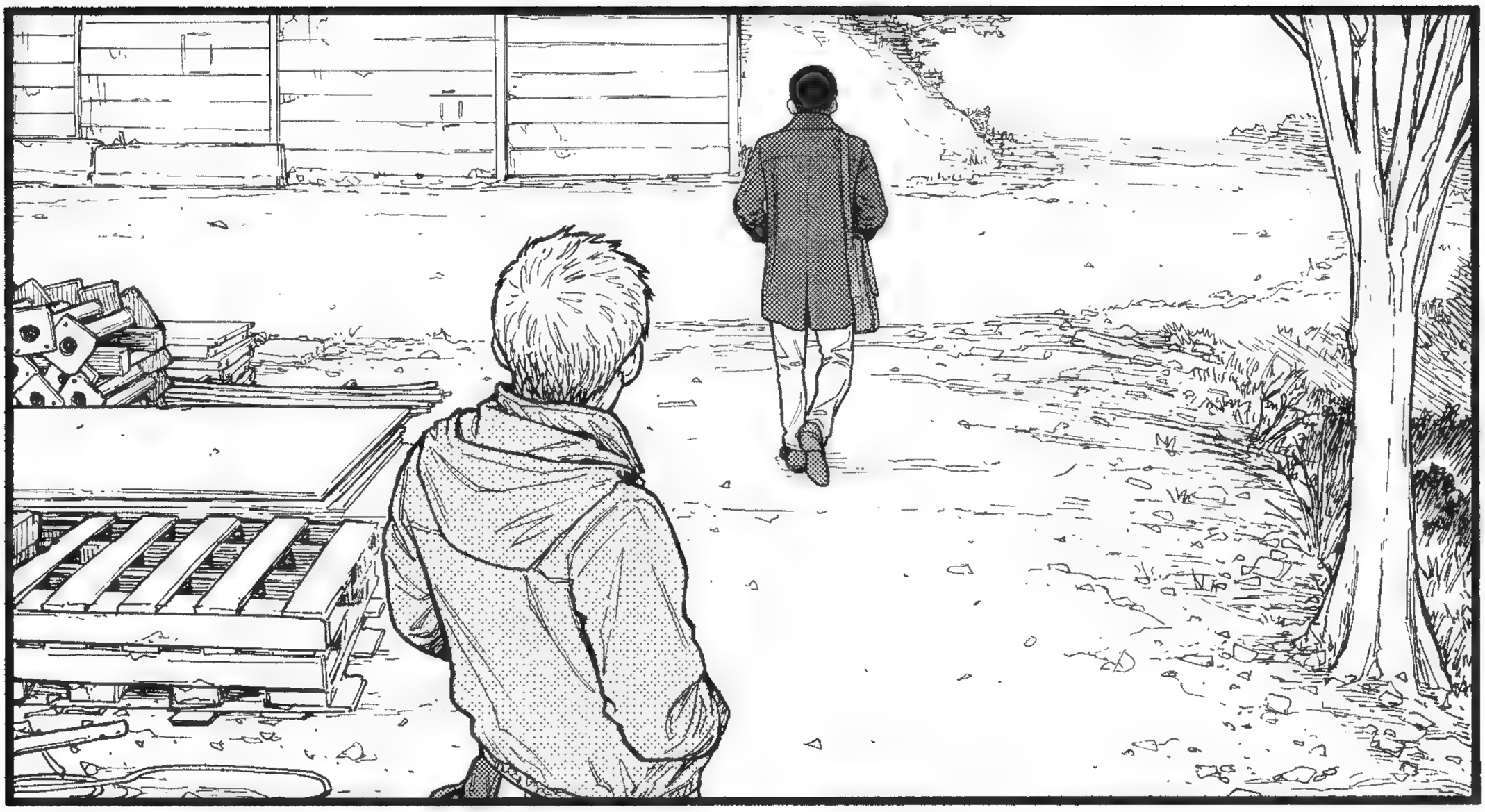
AFTER EVERY-THING THAT'S HAP-PENED,

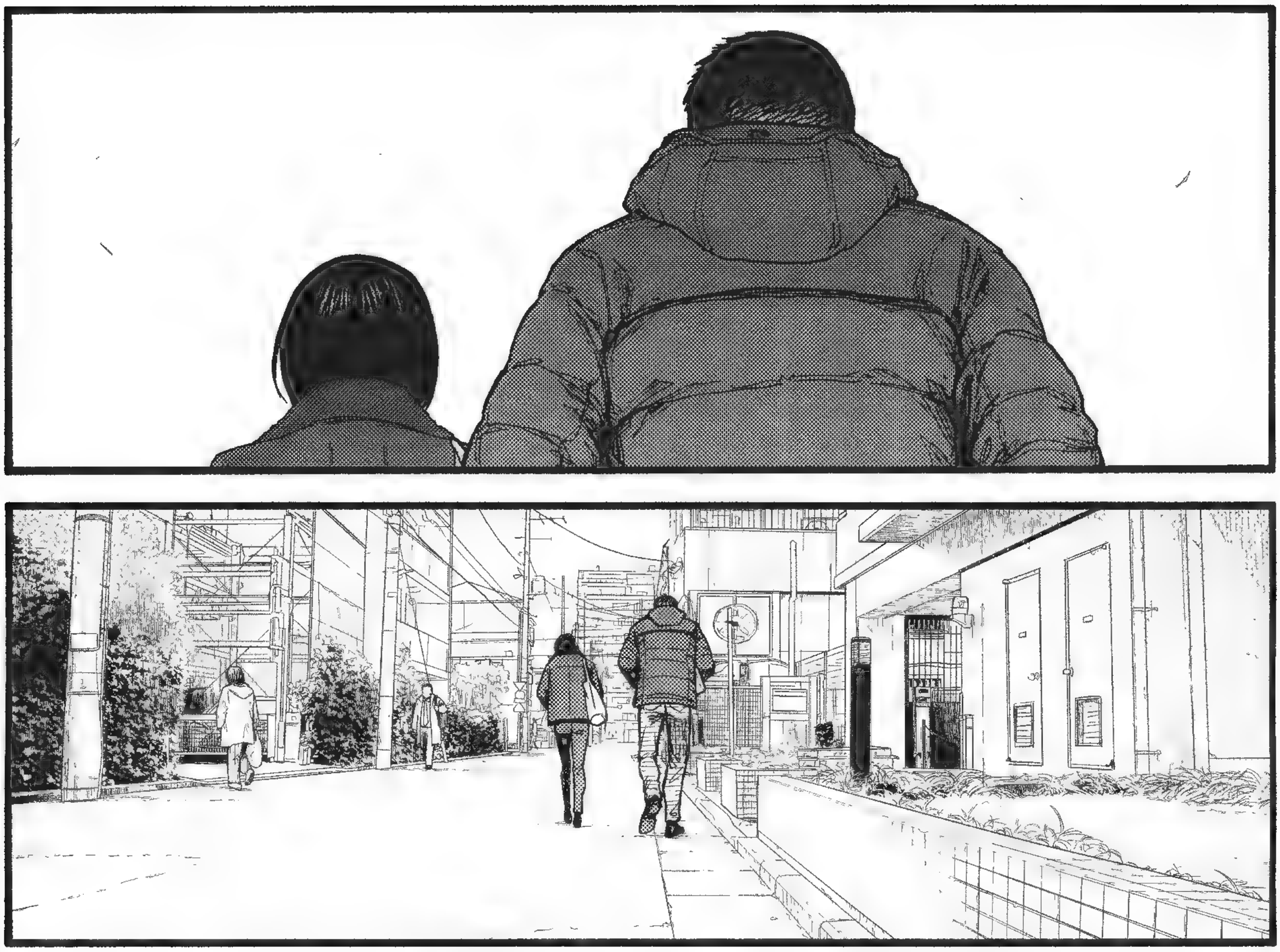
YOU STILL ...

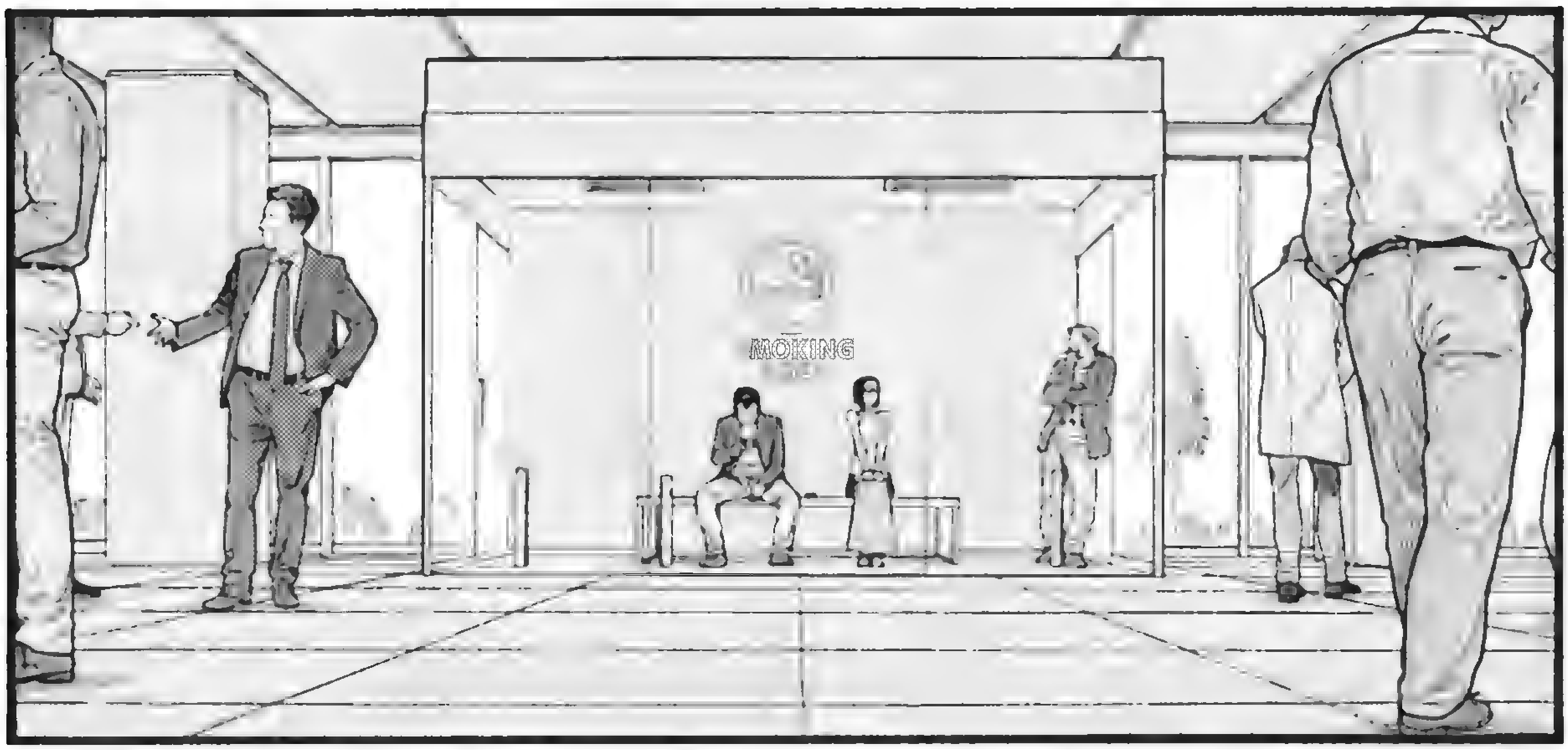
WHAT ?!

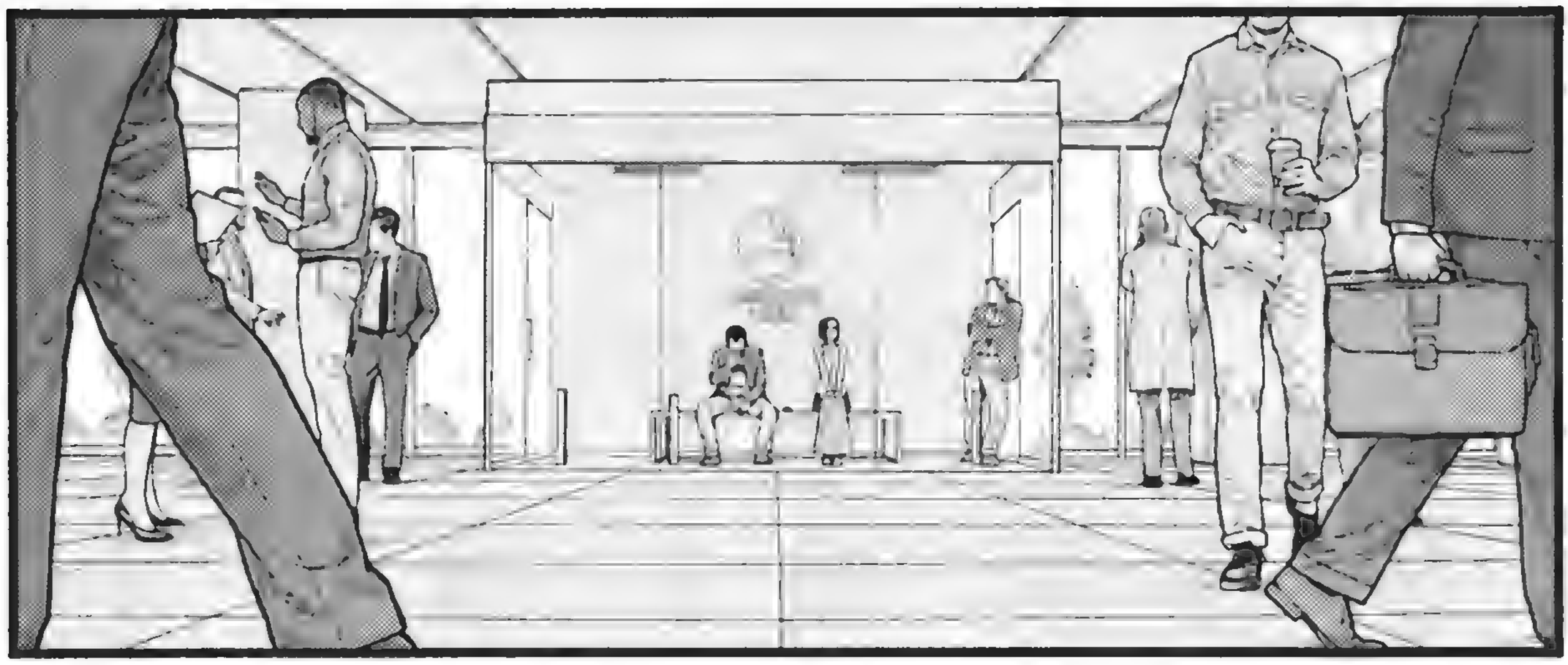

YOU REALLY ARE KEI NAGAI AFTER ALL.
YOU KNOW WHAT?

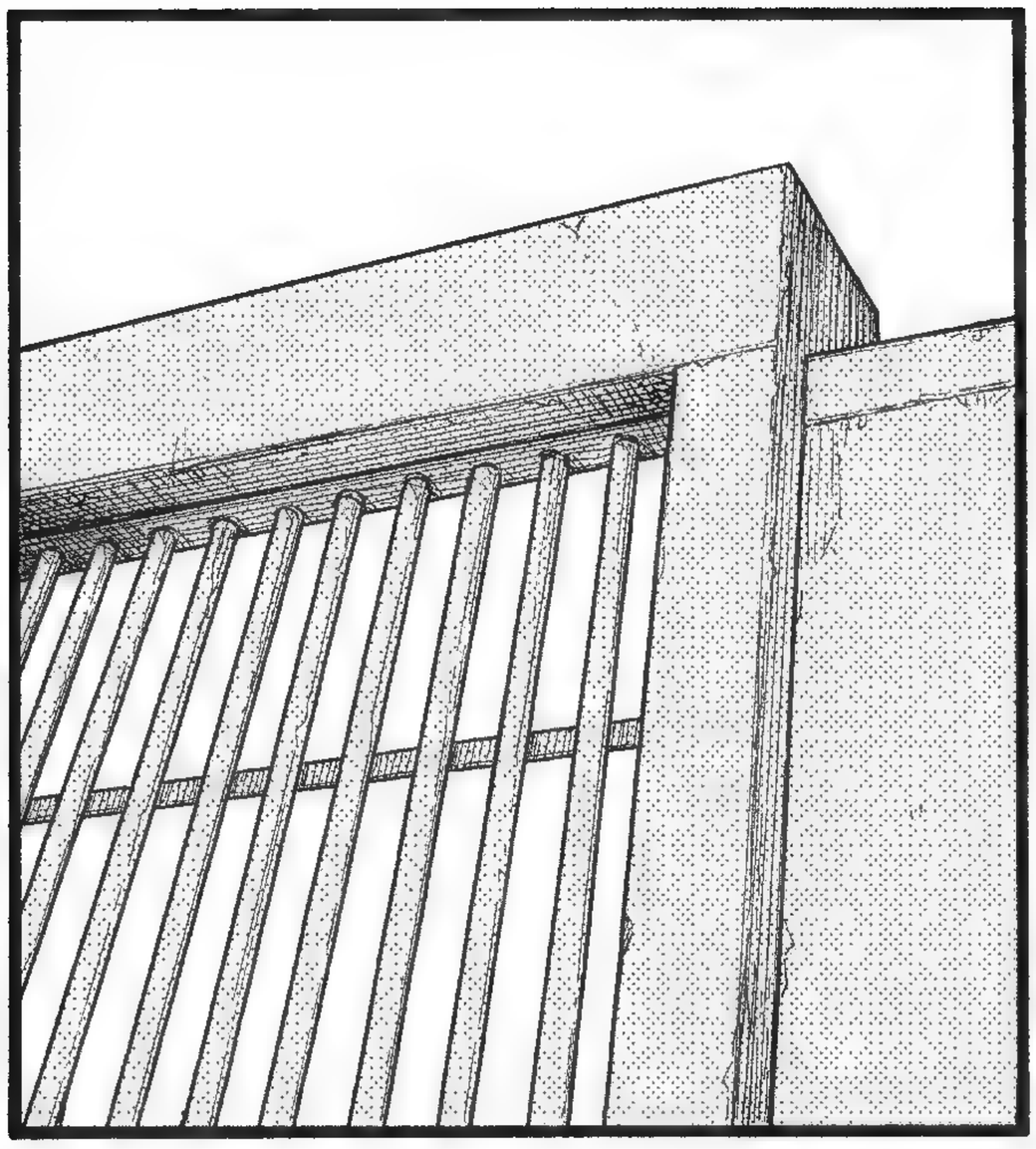

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

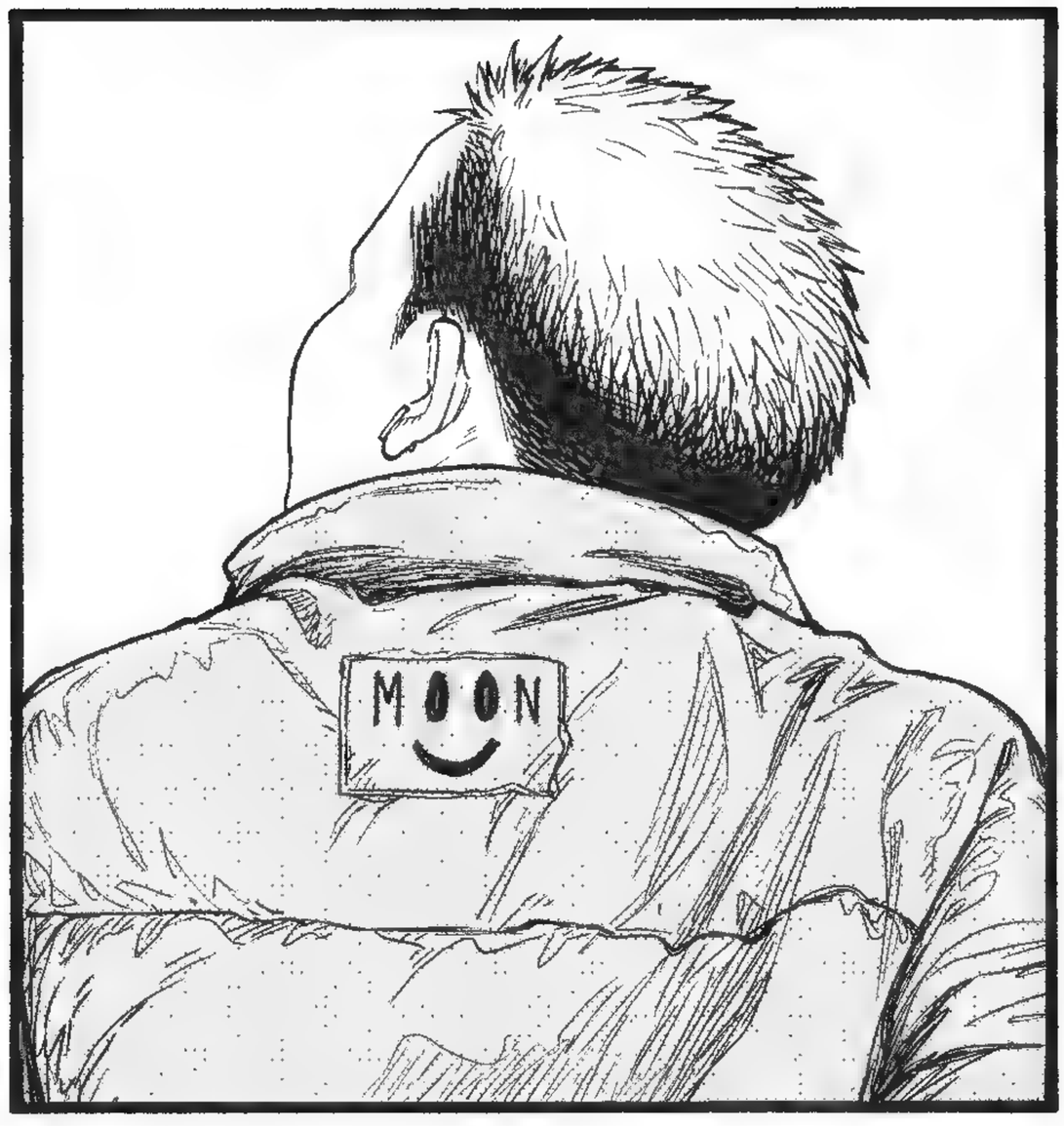


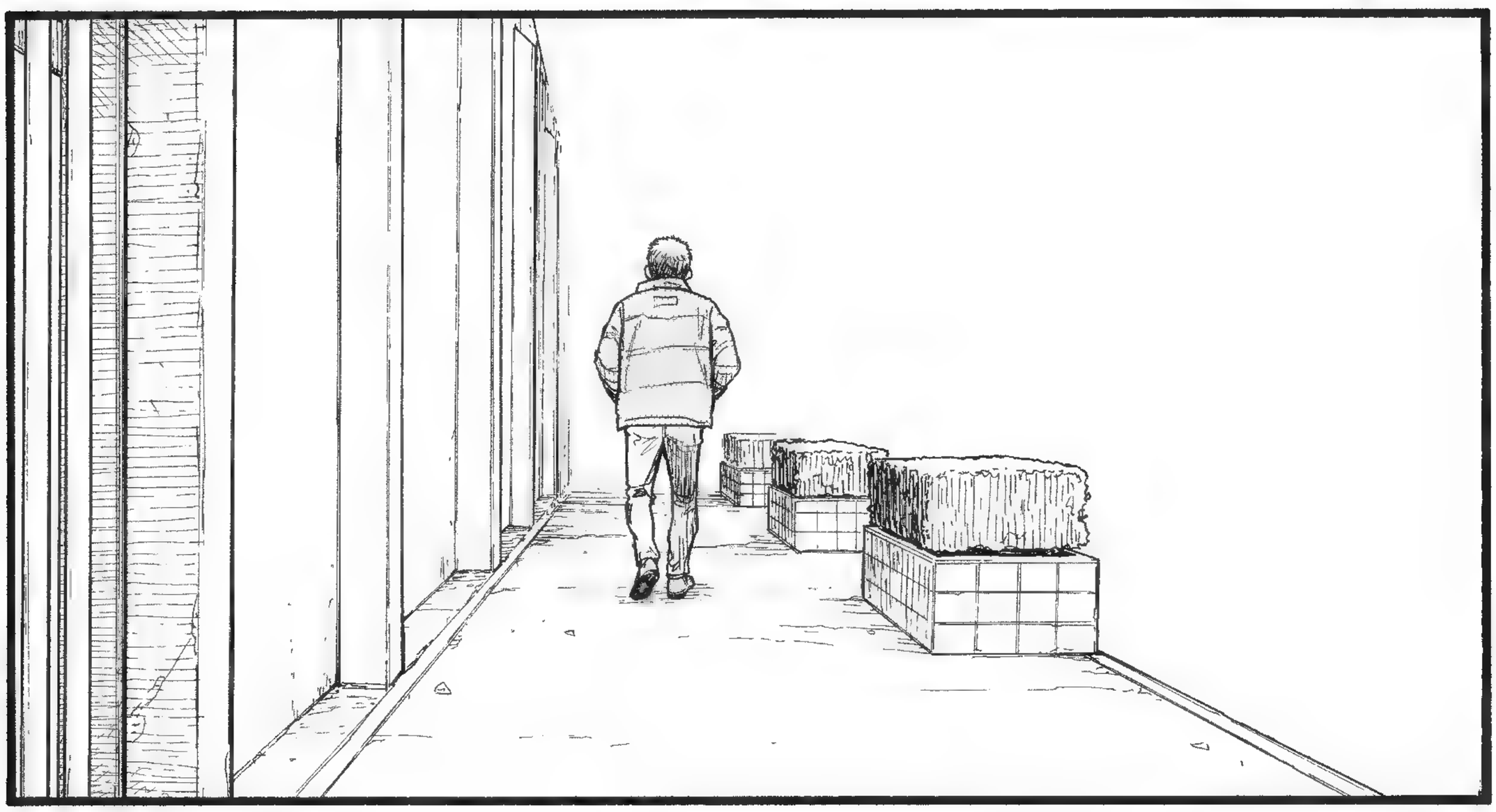


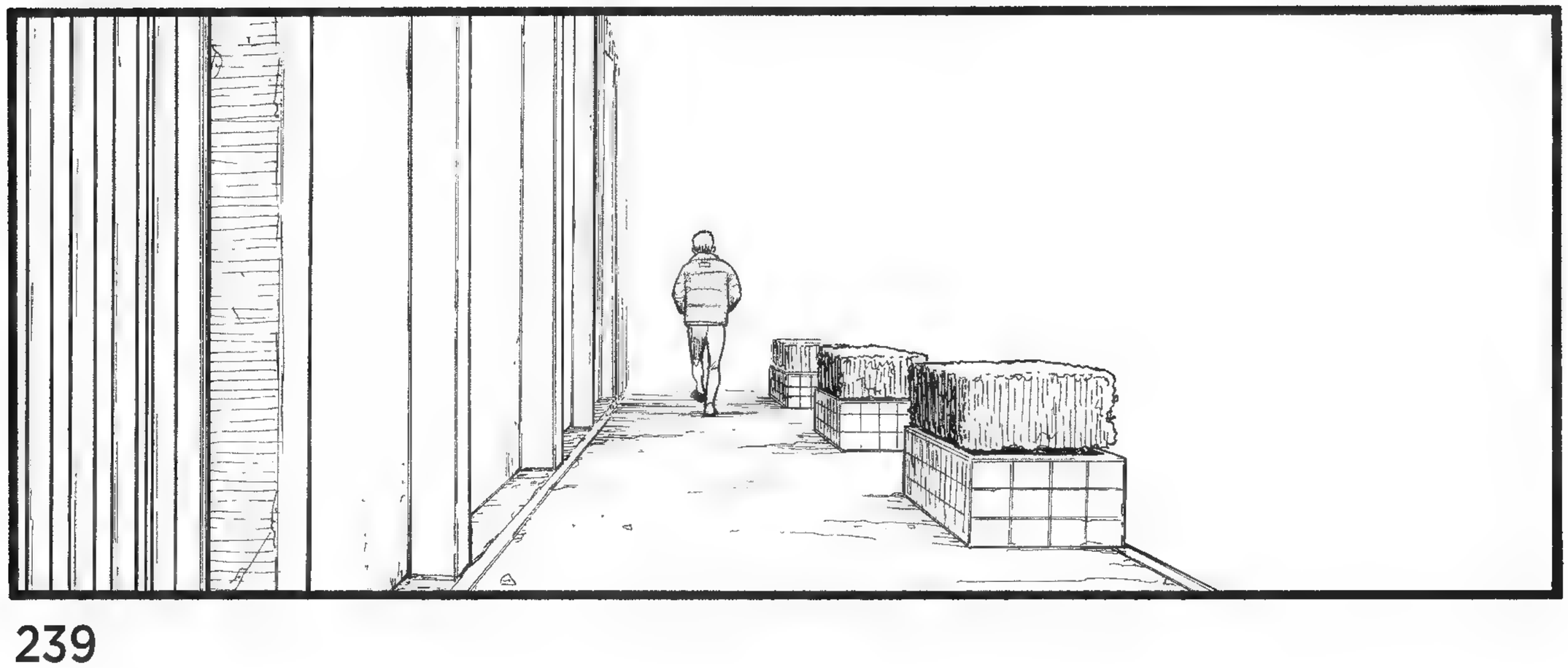

MOKING

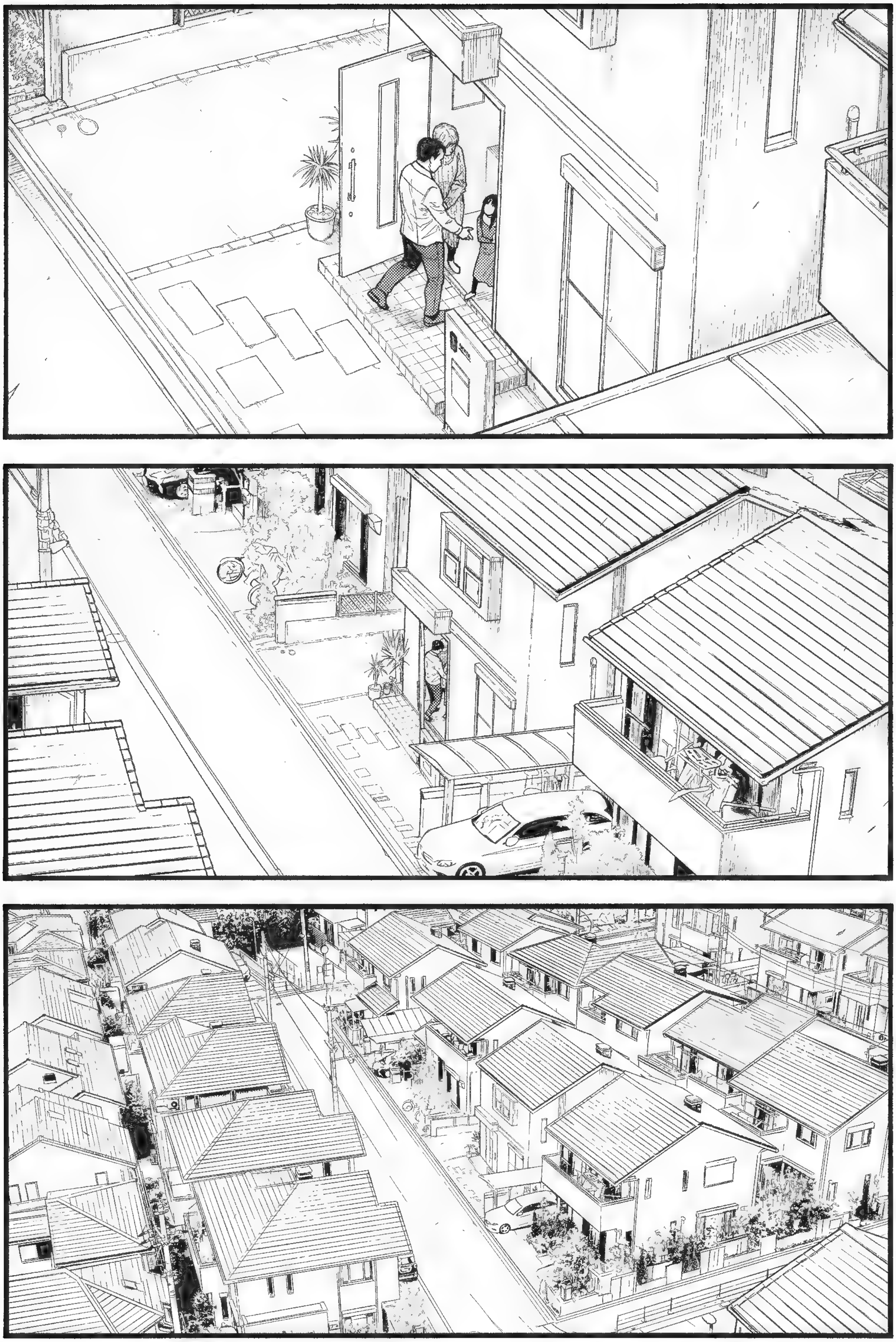


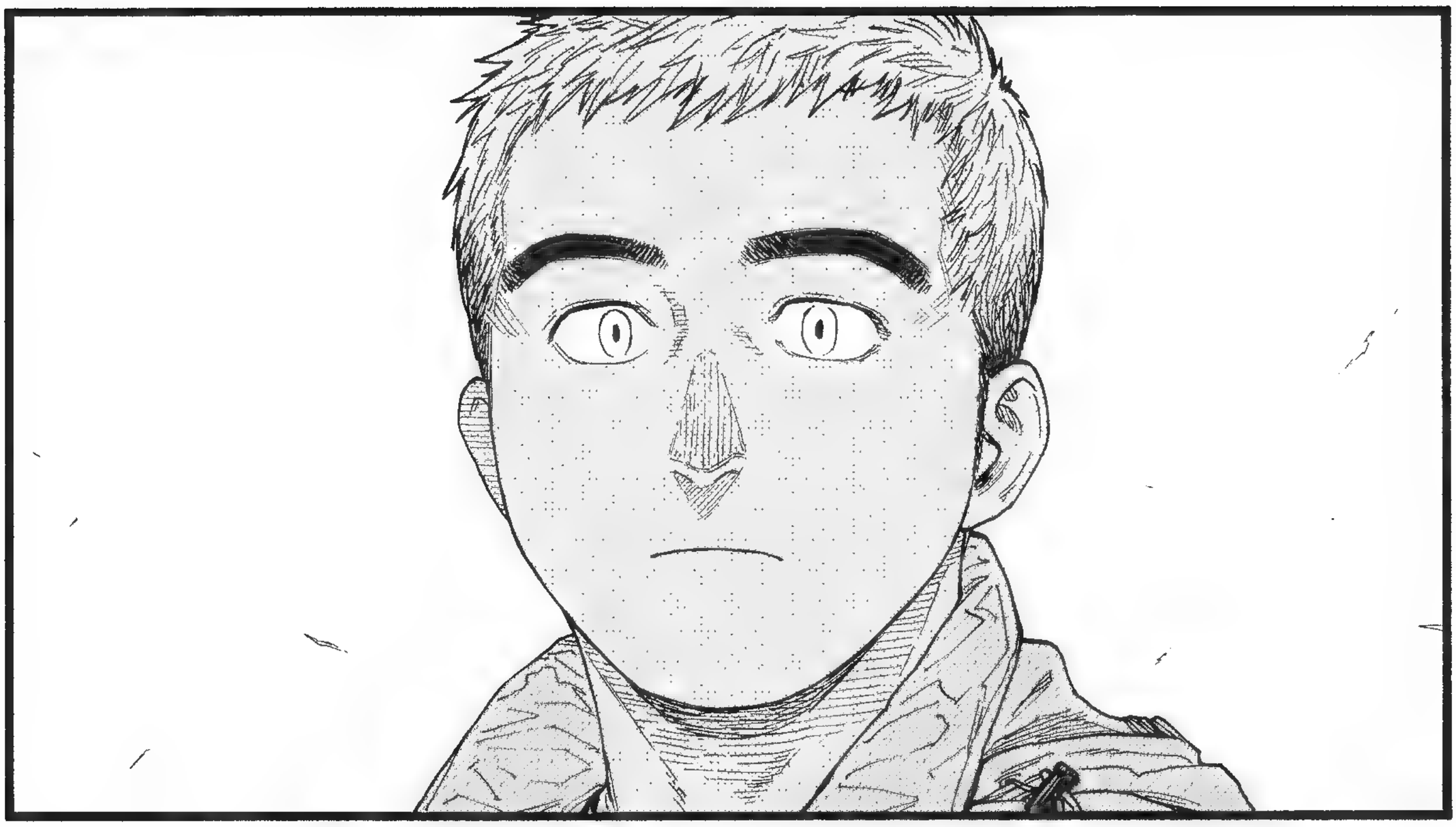


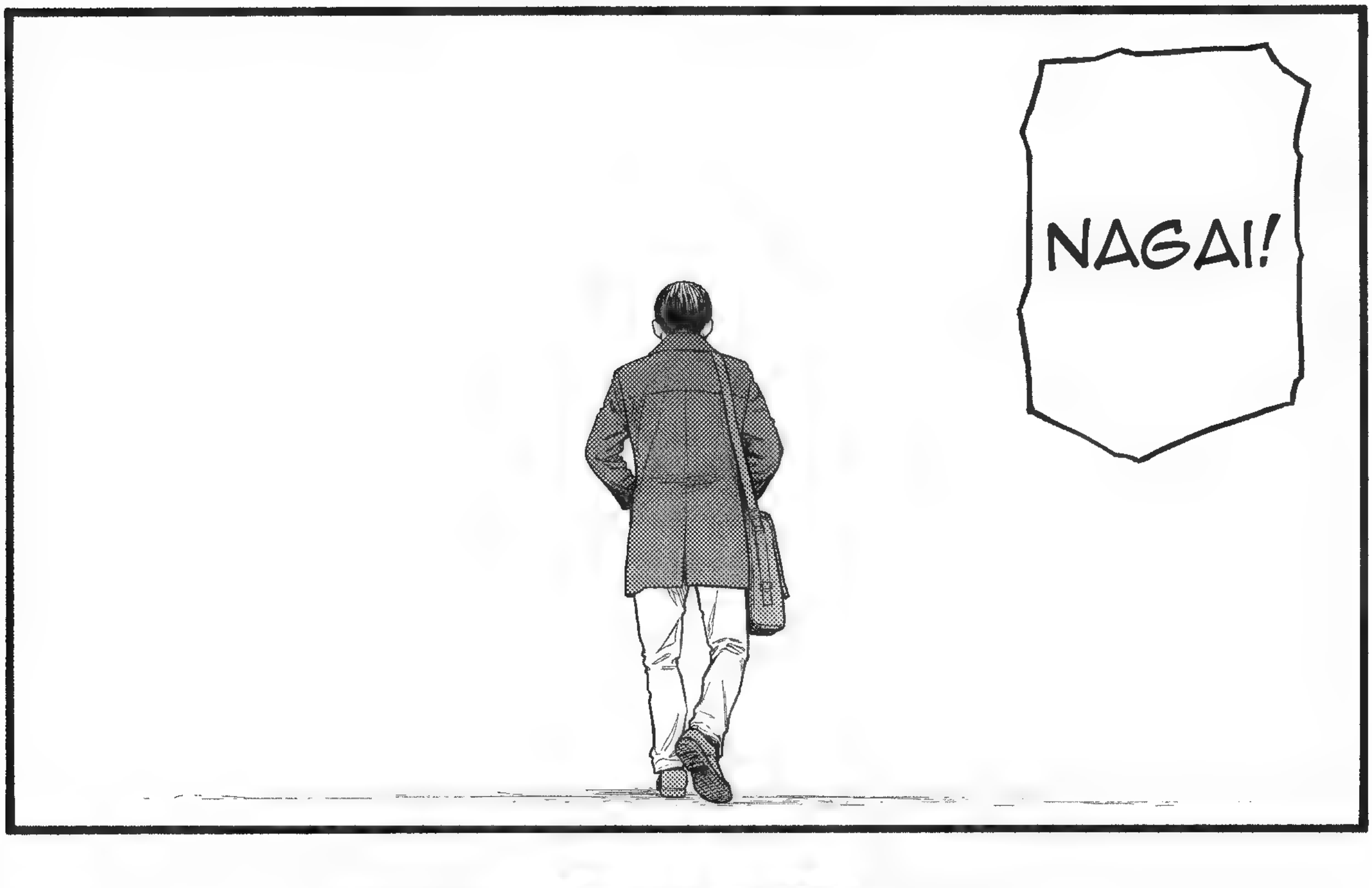

MOON







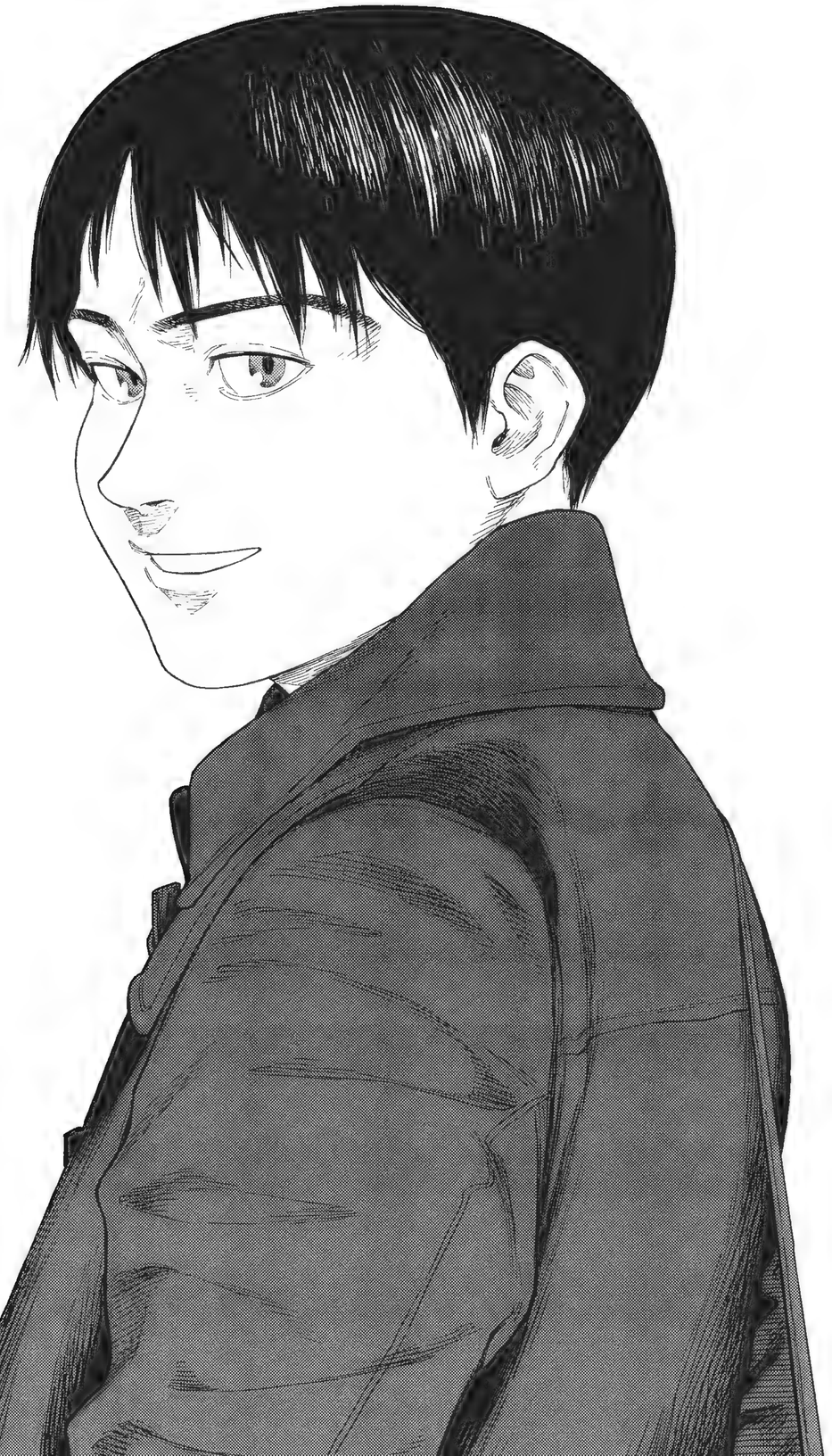



NAGAI!

WE SHOULD ALL MEET UP AGAIN.

SOME-DAY,

I'LL PASS.



GWOK

SIGH ...

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

THE FIRST THING EVERY-ONE LEARNS IS NOT TO CROSS HERE BECAUSE IT'S HARD TO SEE FROM A TRUCK, AND...

WHO WAS THAT ?!

IT'S NAGAI.

NA-GAI!

GOD DAM-MIT!

NOW I'VE DONE IT!

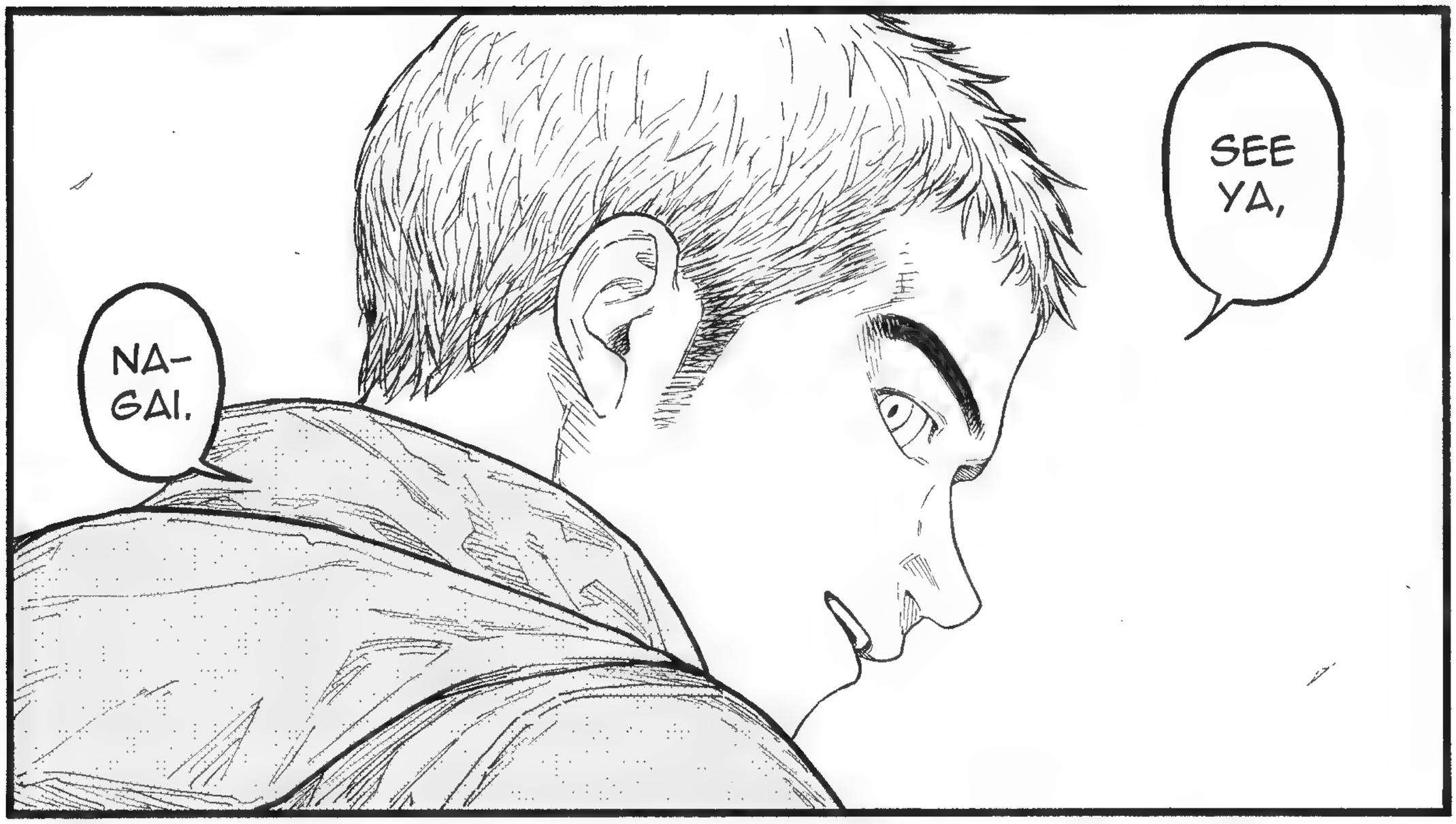
OH, OKAY.

NAGAI ?

COMING!

WE'RE HEADING TO THE SITE!

HEY, NAKANO! QUIT SLACKING!


NA-
GAI.
SEE
YA,

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

SHIT...

THAT HURT...

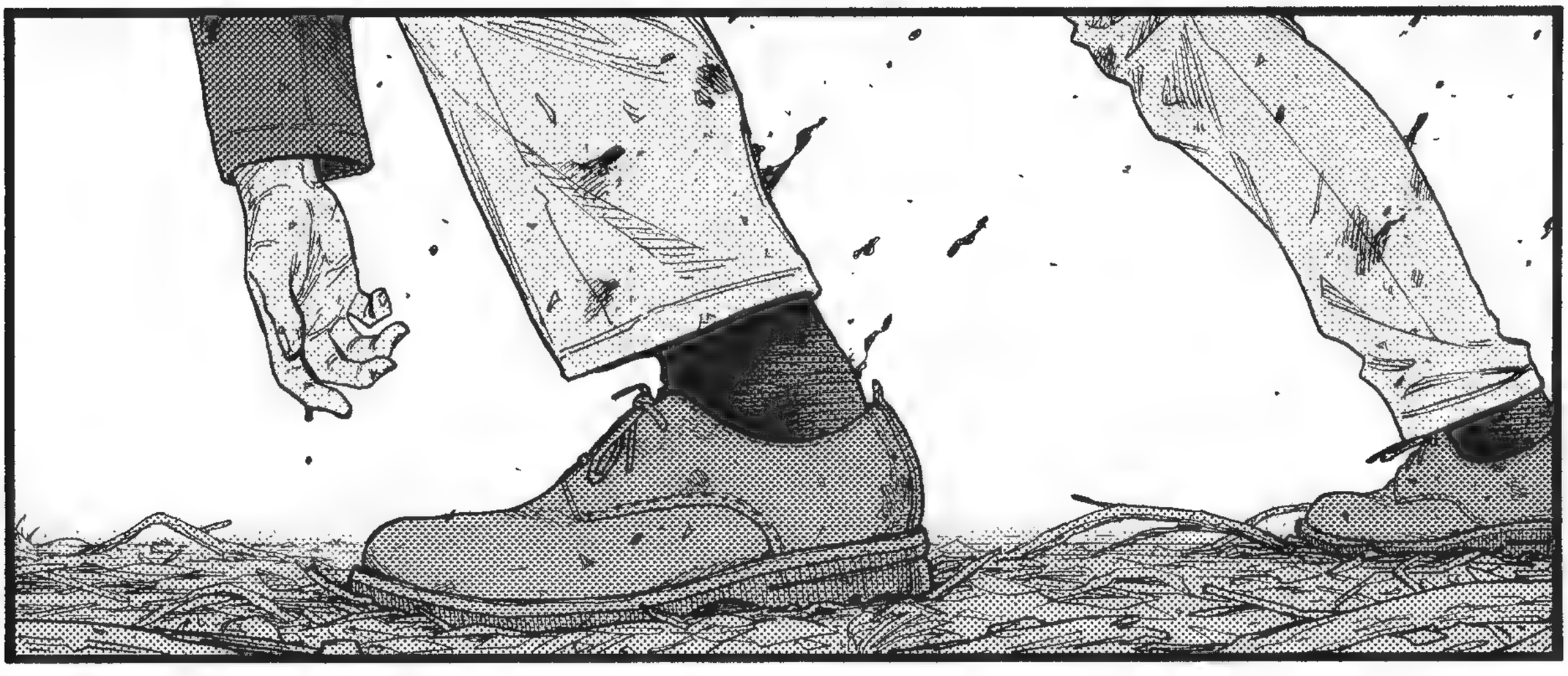
WAS I ...

NOT SUPPOSED TO CROSS THAT ROAD ...?

SHIT!

WELL, WHAT-EVER...

I'M ONLY
GETTING START-ED.



LET'S GO!

AJIN
DEMI-HUMAN

END

COMIC: GAMON SAKURAI

ASSISTANTS: CROUTON SANCHI
SAWANOSHOW

(almost all tone range masking)

(Line drawings

[Volume 17: throughout: Anti-Demi logo: 90%]
[File 79: p. 32, panel 2: background: 90%] [File 79: p. 33, panels 3, 4, 5: background: 90%] [File 79: p. 36, panel 1: shoe: 99%] [File 79: p. 37, panel 1: panel contents: 80%]

[File 80: p. 41, panels 1, 2, 3: motorcycle and helicopter: 96%] [File 80: p.41, panel 1: background: 93%] [File 80: p.42, panel 3: cars: 93%] [File 80: p. 43, panels 2, 6: cars: 90%]
[File 80: p. 43, panel 5: panel contents: 91%] [File 80: p. 44, panel 2: background: 65%] [File 80: p. 45, panel 6: person and cell phone: 90%] [File 80: p. 46, panel 1: car: 90%]
[File 80: p. 47, panel 2: hand and cell phone: 72%] [File 80: p. 49, panels 2, 3: hand and cell phone: 73%] [File 80: p. 50, panel 4: background: 95%]
[File 80: p. 53, panel 3: background: 70%] [File 80: p. 55, panel 2: gun and hand: 60%] [File 80: p. 59, panels 1, 2: helicopter: 80%]
[File 80: p. 60, panels 1, 3, 5: helicopter and motorcycle: 63%] [File 80: p. 61, panel 1: helicopter: 90%] [File 80: p. 62, panels 2, 4: feet, hand, and cellphone: 75%]
[File 80: p. 63, panel 1: hand and cell phone: 80%] [File 80: p. 64, panel 3: hand and cell phone: 80%] [File 80: p. 65, panels 1, 2: car: 83%]]

[File 81: throughout: helicopter and motorcycle: 80%] [File 81: p. 71, panel 1: feet: 40%] [File 81: p. 74, panel 1: background: 70%] [File 81: p. 77, panel 2: panel contents: 95%]
[File 81: p. 84, panel 3: panel contents: 90%] [File 81: p. 85, panel 2: foot: 40%] [File 81: p. 90, panel 3: foot: 42%] [File 81: p. 98, panel 2: panel contents: 61%]
[File 81: p. 99, panel 1: telephone pole and wires: 90%] [File 81: p. 101, panel 2: foot: 42%] [File 81: p. 109, panel 2: body: 87%]

[File 82: throughout: Mitsumine, Chinook, and motorcycle: 69%] [File 82: p. 124, panel 1: helicopters: 80%] [File 82: p.124, panel 2: Sato's gun, houses, and trees: 65%]
[File 82: p. 126, panels 3, 4: controllers and hands: 80%] [File 82: p. 127, panel 5: panel contents: 25%] [File 82: p. 127, panel 6: guns: 40%] [File 82: p.128, panel 1: building: 90%]
[File 82: p.130, panel 1: background: 84%] [File 82: p. 130, panel 3: fighter: 90%] [File 82: p. 136, panel 1: hand and cell phone: 66%] [File 82: p. 142-143, panel 1: background: 70%]
[File 82: p. 144, panel 1: background: 65%] [File 82: p. 145, panel 3: MP5 and SCAR: 95%] [File 82: p. 146, panel 2: SCAR: 90%] [File 82: p. 153, panels 1, 2: SCAR: 90%]
[File 82: p. 155, panels 1, 2: scope: 84%] [File 82: p. 155, panel 3: background: 59%] [File 82: p. 161, panel 1: panel contents: 80%] [File 82: p. 161, panel 2: panel contents: 37%]
[File 82: p. 168-169, panel 1: landscape: 70%]

[Final File: throughout: smoking area logo: 90%) [Final File: throughout: computer keys: 99%) [Final File: p. 173, panel 1: helicopter: 95%]
[Final File: p. 175, panel 1: helicopter: 88%] [Final File: p. 176, panel 2: helicopter: 95%] [Final File: p. 178, panel 2: helicopter: 98%] [Final File: p. 179, panel 3: helicopter: 70%]
[Final File: p. 181, panel 2: helicopter: 92%] [Final File: p. 183, panel 1: helicopter: 100%] [Final File: p. 184, panel 1: panel contents: 60%]
[Final File: p. 184, panels 5, 6: men in suits and photograph of building: 90%) [Final File: p. 185, panels, 2,3: cars: 90%] [Final File: p. 185, panel 6: announcer: 95%]
[Final File: p. 185, panel 9: panel contents: 96%] [Final File: p. 186, panels 3, 4, 6: everything other than Lee and the police: 90%]
[Final File: p. 186, panel 5: photograph of building: 99%] [Final File: p. 187, panels 1, 2, 5, 6: panel contents: 93%] [Final File: p. 187, panel 3: background: 99%]
[Final File: p. 188, panels 1, 4: background: 90%] [Final File: p. 189, panels 2, 5, 6: panel contents: 90%] [Final File: p. 189, panels 7, 8: background: 92]
[Final File: p. 190, panels 1, 2, 3: everything other than the announcer: 93%] [Final File: p. 192-193, panel 1: distant background: 98%]
[Final File: p. 194, panels 1, 2: background: 77%] [Final File: p. 196, panels 1, 2: background: 80%] [Final File: p. 197, panel 6: writing: 100%]
[Final File: p. 208, panel 1: cigarette pack: 80%] [Final File: p. 216, panels 2, 3: panel contents: 45%] [Final File: p. 217, panel 2: intercom: 94%]
[Final File: p. 222, panel 2: panel contents: 98%] [Final File: p. 222, panel 3: shoe sole: 99%] [Final File: p. 226, panels 1, 2: background: 75%]
[Final File: p. 230, panel 1: distant background: 97%] [Final File: p. 237, panels 2, 3, 4: background other than people: 97%] [Final File: p.240, panels 2, 3: background: 92%]
[Final File: p. 246-247, panel 1: truck: 75%] [Final File: p. 248, panels 1, 3: truck: 77%]

KIMIYUKI MASAKI

(Line drawings

[File 79: p. 12, panels 3, 4: background: 100%] [File 79: p. 32, panel 2: folding chairs: 100%]

[File 80: p. 45, panels 1, 3: background: 90%] [File 80: p. 47, panels 2, 4: news images: 68%] [File 80: p. 48, panel 1: announcer and background of photograph: 90%]
[File 80: p. 61, panels 3, 4: background: 70%]

[File 81: p. 70, panels 3, 4: panel contents: 85%]

[File 82: p. 124, panel 1: jungle: 70%) [File 82: p. 128, panels 4, 5: background 90%] [File 82: p. 129, panels 1, 2: buildings and Type 64 pistols: 92%]
[File 82: p. 154, panel 4: foliage: 84%] [File 82: p. 155, panel 3: background: 39%] [File 82: p. 161, panel 2: panel contents: 37%]

[Final File: p. 184, panel 2: announcer: 93%] [Final File: p. 185, panel 6: announcer: 99%] [Final File: p. 185, panel 8: photograph of Diet chamber: 100%]
[Final File: p. 186, panel 1: announcer: 97%] [Final File: p. 189, panel 3: panel contents: 85%] [Final File: p. 191, panel 1: background: 100%]
[Final File: p. 209, panel 2: bento box: 85%] [Final File: p. 221, panel 3: background 90%] [Final File: p. 250, panels 1, 3: panel contents: 86%])

CLIP STUDIO PAINT – LINE DRAWINGS VIA LINE EXTRACTION (IN PREVIOUS VOLUMES THIS WAS LISTED AS "LT CONVERSION FUNCTION," BUT THIS IS PERHAPS MORE ACCURATE)

[File 82: p. 155, panel 1: background: 90%]

AFTERWORD

AJIN had something of a slapdash beginning.

"It starts as an escape story, and then it's going to gradually move towards combat. I expect it'll be the kind of manga that isn't thought out too far in advance, so we'll just figure out the most exciting ways for it to develop from scene to scene"—that's how this series began. I remember the editor telling me this in early 2011, when I had been selected to do the art. (I had heard there would be "black ghosts, phantoms the demi-humans could see," but I was startled when they started engaging in physical combat.)

I suspect that people who follow me on social media already know this, but the first five chapters of AJIN were written by someone else. I was originally just in charge of the art, but from the sixth chapter on, I started handling the story as well.

So, the rest of this is an apology.

As I said, it hadn't been decided where the comic would go, which meant that when I took over, everything—the rest of the story, the setting, the ways foreshadowing would pay off, the characters' pasts and futures—was going to be invented by someone with a completely different authorial voice and vision. And what would that bring…? Well, having just read the final volume, you know the answer.

The point is that it's become a manga with a different sensibility than it had at the beginning.

Which means it's betrayed the expectations of everyone who, after reading Volume 1, thought to themselves, "So the story's going to go on like this, then…?" And all I can do is offer an apology. I'm truly sorry. (Starting with Volume 2, I tried to move the art gradually closer to my own style, but I sure got a lot of comments from readers that "the art had suddenly changed.")

The thing is, this is what I do. I love American action movies of the late '80s-early '00s from the bottom of my heart. This is the only kind of manga I can draw.

Lastly, it wasn't the publisher or the editors or even me myself who supported the serialization of AJIN; it was all the readers who paid to read it. I'm not trying to toss off some maudlin message here, I'm talking about the structure of society.

So thank you for sticking with AJIN over the course of these past nine years. I'm truly grateful to each and every one of you for reading.

Gamon Sakurai March 2021

Ajin: Demi-Human 17

Kodansha Digital Edition

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First published in Japan in 2021 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
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English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

ISBN: 9781636990859

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

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Translation: Ko Ransom
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Hiroko Mizuno

kodansha.us

Ripper: danke-Empire